



## MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL

May 8, 2018

President and Board Members  
East Bay Regional Parks District  
2950 Peralta Oaks Court  
Oakland, California 94605

### RE: COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITIES IN HERCULES

The City of Hercules is proud of its extensive network of dedicated open space and trails including new segments of the Bay Trail. Hercules is also an ideal point to connect the Bay Trail to the Bay Area Ridge Trail in furtherance of a seamless connection between these regional serving amenities. The East Bay Regional Parks District has been an active supporter and funder of some of the activities here in Hercules including the Bay Trail phase of the Hercules Regional Intermodal Transportation Center through an allocation of Measure AA or WW funds.

In addition, EBRPD developed and operates an existing segment of the Bay Trail here in Hercules. This segment is adjacent to the approximately 5.4 acre San Pablo Bay Regional Park site under lease from the State of California by the EBRPD which is currently undeveloped open space. In addition, a portion of the District operated Bay Trail is adjacent to the Chelsea Wetlands which the City is in process of restoring as a tidally influenced wetlands with Ducks Unlimited. The District is also close to completing an extension of the Bay Trail from Pinole toward Point Pinole, which together with the planned District extension of the Bay Trail from Hercules to Rodeo, will provide a continuous Bay Trail segment, both permanent and temporary, from Rodeo to Tara Hills.

With this history of collaboration, the City is interested in exploring other opportunities to expand the trails system and recreational amenities in this part of West Contra Costa County in conjunction with the EBRPD. A prime example would be the future development of the 11 acre City-owned Hercules Point as a recreational amenity. Hercules Point is a key future amenity of the Waterfront District, including the soon-to-start construction of the Bayfront community.

At buildout, this transit oriented development will feature up to 1,500 homes, retail, office, and hospitality in a compact, walkable, and bicycle friendly neighborhood linked by a series of public plazas and gathering spots, with the Hercules Regional Intermodal Transportation Center as the focal point. It will result in Hercules' first true downtown and community heart. The first phase of the private development in the Bayfront will be starting construction this summer, so this is an exciting time in the realization of the this long held community vision.

As such, it is timely to begin to explore options for the development of Hercules Point which could be improved as a regionally-appealing park with a variety of recreational amenities of interest. It could host kayak, wind surfing and other small watercraft launching facilities, among other amenities. It could even host an overnight camping facility for kayakers making their way from Fremont all the way to Discovery Bay as part of the San Francisco Bay Area Water Trail.

Hercules Point is also planned to host a future Ferry terminal and access to the point will be initially facilitated by the development of the Hercules Regional Intermodal Transportation Center when the rail station improvements are constructed. In addition, a secondary access point is to be provided to allow for emergency vehicle and maintenance access at a point adjacent to a future planned hotel site. As a former industrial site, Hercules Point has already been remediated to a commercial occupancy standard. The City is interested in partnering with the EBRPD on the development of Hercules Point and believes that the District with its expertise and diverse experiences in the development of regional serving recreational amenities would be in the best position to lead this effort from planning to buildout and operation.

An additional opportunity unique to Hercules would be to utilize the Bay Trail and network of other recreational amenities in this area as an interpretive experience which would share the history of Hercules as a company town developed by the Hercules Powder Works and its role in the development of California and its historical contributions throughout the decades. The District has demonstrated a wonderful ability to provide this type of interpretive experience as demonstrated by the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and in other of your parks.

Also, given the District's expertise and experience, we are hoping you may be able to assist in closing a gap between where our Refugio Valley trail ends at the top of Refugio Valley Road and a relatively short distance where it would connect to the Bay Area Ridge Trail on East Bay MUD watershed property.

We look forward to exploring these opportunities for collaboration and would welcome your suggestions as to the best way to give life to these new partnership potentialities.

Sincerely,

Chris Kelley  
Mayor

cc: Council Members

Attachments:  
Illustrative Waterfront Master Plan  
Holding Map