From: Mary Pezzuto
To: Warriors, PLN (CPC)
Subject: don"t gut the Warrior"s base!!
Date: Monday, July 13, 2015 2:16:36 PM

Dear Mr. Bollinger,

I'm writing to offer my perspective on the proposed Golden State Warriors Arena and Events Center at Mission Bay.

The Warriors have been Oakland's team for decades, and they belong here. This is where the heart is. You will lose a significant portion of your regular ticketholders with the move, and derail the (current and ongoing) accessibility of East Bay youth and community to continue to afford and gain access to the team we love.

Moving to SF may seem strategically great from a financial/investment perspective, but that's not everything. It's not that I dislike change, it's that if you saw the turnout that came to the parade, or the energy in the playoffs and the finals, you know that Oakland doesn't just support, Oakland needs and loves this team. And Oakland needs a team to love.

I was born in SF, and my family has been here for 5 generations. I love the city. It's not about that. San Francisco has plenty of reason to party and celebrate, with all the attractions and civic and community pride. I'm thinking Pride Parade, BatKid, St. Paddy's day parade, not to mention the Giants and the 49ers (Okay, so they've left or may leave. You'll still have their parades in SF, and ATT park will continue to be a hip destination and tourist destination.) SF doesn't need more congestion to already overstressed transit, street parking, and street and ramp traffic. It also doesn't need the kind of regentrification that displaces hundreds or thousands of hardworking San Franciscans who keep the lights on and do much of the heavy lifting in the local economy. It needs to fine-tune the garden it's growing, by helping the homeless, supporting underserved neighborhoods, cleaning up the urine-soaked streets and entryways, and providing more grassroots community events to engage the public and energize neighborhood continuity.

Oakland deserves to keep the Warriors. The spirit of connection and civic pride that's evolved from this championship is beyond compare. People here are talking to each other in supermarkets, gas stations, banks, cafes. It's such a happy vibe, and it's pulling Oakland together. Don't hijack one of the most significant bright spots this east bay community has seen in years.

Sincerely,
Mary Pezzuto
Bay Area Native, Oakland & Visitacion Valley