



*inspiring people to protect  
Bay Area birds since 1917*

July 17, 2015

Ms. Tiffany Bohee, OCII Executive Director  
c/o Mr. Brett Bollinger, SF Planning Department  
1650 Mission St, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Mr. David Kelly, Project Sponsor GSW Arena LLC  
warriors@sfgov.org

**re: Draft SEIR for case number: OCII: ER 2014-919-97; Planning Dept: 2014.1441E**

Dear Sirs and Ladies:

I am writing on behalf of the Golden Gate Audubon Society in response to the Draft SEIR for the Event Center and Mixed-use Development project at Mission Bay Blocks 29-32. We were pleased to see that this SEIR included planned mitigations for possible impact to resident and migratory birds. Two specific areas are addressed: Mitigation Measure M-BI-4a: Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds; and Mitigation Measure M-BI-4b: Bird-Safe Building Practices (refer to details in table 1-2, biological resources, initial study section E13; vol 1 pages 1-58, 1-59). Also the project description in section 3 (page 3-28) mentions Bird-Safe Design: *"The project sponsor proposes to incorporate bird-safe design measures that would reduce the potential effects of the proposed buildings, signage and lighting on birds."* The bird-safe building codes are important regulations that San Francisco has adopted – making our city a national leader in environmental stewardship. **We hope that you will do your utmost to meet and even exceed the bird-safe building design codes.**

There are some open questions regarding the planned open space near the project (Bayfront Park, and Agua Vista Park). It is not clear if the scope of this SEIR includes those spaces. These are additional areas of possible impact to bird populations on the shoreline. For example, the old piers off the Bayfront Park area served as the last remaining sites in San Francisco where Caspian Terns had nested collectively. Replacement nesting platforms were proposed to be built by the Port of SF as required mitigation for America's Cup (and hasn't been done as promised yet). The shoreline beach area is also used by birds on migration, so further development of this area could have deleterious impact on wildlife use. Part of the beauty and attraction of these areas is the waterfront, so to the extent that you can incorporate natural waterline and structures that sustain the presence of charismatic wildlife (such as birds), you are serving both the people and the health of the San Francisco Bay. We encourage you to consider native plantings and features that support native wildlife. To the extent that these natural resources are negatively impacted, it will be necessary to mitigate for those impacts.

Thank you for your consideration of comments on this project. We encourage project leaders to be familiar with the biological report which both Golden Gate Audubon had submitted a few years back pertaining to this general area. It is called, *A Summary Report of Avian Surveys Conducted in 2008 at Dilapidated Piers and Other Structures along the Port of San Francisco's Southern Waterfront Properties* which was provided to the Port of San Francisco.

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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As the project proceeds, GGAS would like to be kept informed about the results of the surveys, and proposed construction plans to reduce instances of collisions with birds. We can be reached at (510) 843-2222.

Very sincerely yours,



Cindy Margulis  
Executive Director  
Golden Gate Audubon