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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

October 25, 2023

Mr. Eric Jolliffe, Environmental Planner
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
450 Golden Gate Ave, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
OaklandHarborTurningBasinsStudy@usace.army.mil

RE: Inquiries on Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Navigation Study; Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment

I write regarding the future of the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project currently being undertaken by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. I would like to see a comprehensive plan for public engagement on this project, as many of my constituents believe they have not been appropriately engaged around the issue and support a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) inclusive of an assessment of how the project could impact traffic congestion and resulting pollution.

Many of my constituents, including organizations such as Earthjustice and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP), have concerns that the current Revised Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (“Revised Draft Report”) conducted for the project is inadequate. According to WOEIP and Earthjustice, the report as it stands lacks analysis of the impacts beyond the project’s construction phase, which therefore improperly narrows consideration of greenhouse gas emissions, impacts on local species, and disclosure of where the dredged materials will be placed. Beyond this, they argue that it fails to consider a future where there is higher ship traffic within the harbor, which could add to environmental impacts on residents of West Oakland.

In light of the Revised Draft Report, I wanted to inquire to the Army Corps of Engineers on the following points:

- Could the Army Corps of Engineers prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that examines the project's potential effects on the West Oakland

community, and include the required mitigation measures to meet the Corps' environmental justice responsibilities?

- What steps will the Army Corps of Engineers undertake going forward to ensure the review process includes meaningful public engagement, allowing concerned citizens, local stakeholders, and environmental organizations to provide input, express their concerns, and contribute to the decision-making process?

In addition, I wanted to inquire on the processes to include public input and transparency in the decision-making process of this project. It is essential that the affected communities have an opportunity to voice their concerns, provide feedback, and participate in discussions related to significant developments. It would be encouraging to see the Army Corps coordinate its NEPA analysis with President Biden's recent executive orders on racial equity and environmental justice. Both Executive Order 14091 and Executive Order 14096 emphasize the need for agencies to engage extensively with underserved and overburdened communities to address the adverse environmental impacts associated with proposed federal actions.

Thank you, and I look forward to your timely response.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Lee".

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress