

EAST BAY TIMES

Letters to the Editor: May 20, 2018

Move forward with plans to redevelop Alameda Marina

Plans for the redevelopment of Alameda Marina have evolved in recent years based on input from the community, including tenants like us. Now, we believe these plans represent a balanced mix of housing, commercial and maritime uses — while preserving as much of the history of the marina as possible, given the condition of the property.

The marina is still an active commercial environment, but its infrastructure is in dire need of replacement or repair to support its businesses. Built in the 1940s to support war efforts, many of the buildings have outlived their commercial usefulness. The seawall is collapsing and in need of immediate repair, and much of the soil is contaminated with toxins left over from decades-long light industrial activity.

As a tenant of the marina, we believe it is time to reimagine the property for future generations. Pacific Shops has done a good job gathering input, and the plan that they have put together deserves serious consideration and support. The proposal would bring new life to the aging marina and open it up for the entire city to use for boating and other water-related recreation.

Plus plans call for a maritime hub and a modern, efficient dockyard for servicing boats — keeping alive the marina's historic mission with an eye toward the future. We are anticipating the positive change that investing in the marina will bring, and we are willing to share the new Alameda Marina with future generations of businesses.

— *Eric Gantos and Joanne Martin, owners, Hot Rod Shop Inc.*