

Dear Albany Resident:

You may have heard that the Golden Gate Fields (GGF) property has been selected as one of six finalists to house Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's (LBNL) second site. LBNL's process has been interesting to follow. It started with a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify properties that met certain standards: proximity to LBNL's Berkeley campus, ample acreage, access to special amenities such as views and restaurants, and the potential to create a very special environment for scientists, scholars, and the region. LBNL envisions this new site to be home to those sciences focused on life, biology, and energy, in a setting that is open and accessible to the public. It will not be a gated campus.

As your council members, we are quite excited about the prospect of seeing a worldclass science center in our city limits. Naturally, we concur with LBNL that our waterfront offers a spectacular opportunity to develop a project that includes open space, appropriate land uses, and tax revenue to support our city and schools.

We are pleased that this possibility can build on the extensive and thoughtful contributions made by so many of you through Voices to Vision. (For those of you who are new to Albany, please visit [www.voicestovision.com](http://www.voicestovision.com) to understand this two-year waterfront visioning process.) We hope that the community process that is unfolding for the LBNL project will enable our thinking about the waterfront to evolve further, and to support our desires for the site and our city.

Over the coming weeks we will all hear much more about the GGF/LBNL project, and will have several opportunities to weigh in on the ideas being proposed by LBNL and the owners of GGF. We look forward to helping to shape a proposal that excites LBNL and that reflects the values and aspirations of our community.

We are gratified that the owners of Golden Gate Fields understand how important community input and support will be for a project of this scope. To that end, GGF - which is currently transitioning its ownership from Magna International Development (MID) to The Stronach Group - has agreed to provide the city with the resources necessary to engage Fern Tiger Associates (FTA), the firm that spearheaded Voices to Vision. In this way, everyone can be assured that the process will be informative, innovative, and professional - albeit compressed into an extremely challenging and short timeframe to meet the demanding schedule set by LBNL. Given the schedule, it's understandable that other competing cities (Berkeley, Alameda, Oakland, and Richmond) are reaching out to encourage support for their sites. While GGF also hopes for support, they have agreed with the city that the community deserves extensive information, a meaningful voice, a chance to have input, and an ongoing role in understanding options, benefits, and also the challenges posed by their proposal.

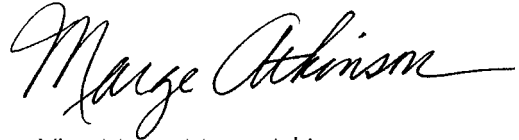
We know that you probably have many questions, especially related to the amount and nature of the development and open space, and the tax revenues to be generated for the City of Albany and our schools. Indeed, we are just beginning these discussions and are pressing for answers quickly.

Attached to this letter are answers to some very early questions that we raised, and a brief summary of the project with key dates to get onto your calendar. We look forward to a series of healthy discussions done the Albany way – totally open, respectful, informed, and challenging – always trying to make Albany a better place.

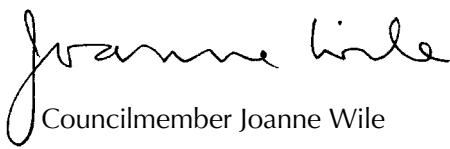
Sincerely,



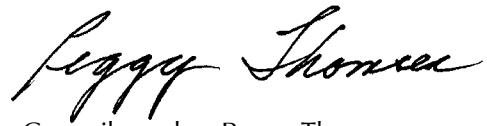
Mayor Farid Javandel



Vice Mayor Marge Atkinson



Councilmember Joanne Wile



Councilmember Peggy Thomsen

P.S. Please note that Councilmember Robert Lieber cannot participate in Council matters related to this project, as his wife is employed by the Lab and the California Fair Political Practices Commission has determined that he must recuse himself from any discussion and Council vote on matters involving LBNL.