



East Bay Housing Organizations

February 2, 2021

Concord City Council
1950 Parkside Drive
MS/01
Concord, CA 94519

Dear Mayor McGallian and Councilmembers:

On behalf of East Bay Housing Organizations and our members, many of whom live and/or work in the City of Concord. I write to you addressing the development of Ellis Lake Park.

We all need quality parks in our neighborhoods. Parks are good for our health, children and environment and communities. But, park related displacement is a real threat to low-income communities, including communities in the Monument Corridor. Therefore, we support development of Ellis Lake Park, *if* the City of Concord adopts robust anti-displacement policies and strategies. We recommend that Council support a multi sectoral anti displacement task force to explore potential preventative strategies for Ellis Lake Park and the area around it. The task force should include residents, CBO's, city staff and anti-displacement experts. The charge of the task force should be to identify data needed to assess the risk and impact of local development on displacement of low-income communities of color and craft anti-displacement recommendations specifically to protect community residents around Ellis Lake Park. These anti-displacement policies were something requested by residents during community input sessions on the development- and that input should be honored.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sophia DeWitt

Rev. Sophia DeWitt
Program Director
East Bay Housing Organizations