

From: [Lois Salisbury](#)
To: [Neal Toft](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Demand Local-Controlled Housing in Sausalito; an Opportunity for Innovative Leadership
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 9:46:39 AM

Dear City Council,

I live in the houseboat community, am an active user of the tennis courts at MLK Park and am a concerned citizen about Sausalito's current housing plans. New housing is being pushed to the northern tip — including low-income units in a public park—while vacant lots and office buildings remain unused. **And, see below, you have an opportunity to demonstrate innovative leadership by supporting new houseboat docks instead.**

I urge you to:

- Remove MLK as an opportunity site.
- Revise city ordinances (particularly Ordinance 1022) to reinstate local building control rather than being locked into a closed-door plan created exclusively for state and HCD requirements.

I offer these additional thoughts, one big, one small but very important.

1. Please demonstrate innovative leadership -- create some affordable housing by building adu's on several new houseboat docks.

I attended the public meeting several weeks ago at the Bay Model about sea level rise. We had exciting discussions inspired by Amsterdam. Why not expand eastward onto the water with some floating, affordable housing docks? With today's smart, beautiful and efficient adu designs, highly affordable and beautiful housing could be built onto new docks. With today's knowledge about environmentally sound houseboat and dock designs (both local knowledge and learning from Amsterdam), we could do this right.

Inevitably, your first thought will be, but BCDC won't allow. Then propose just a pilot of several docks, perhaps 50-75 units total, to monitor the effects on the Bay before this approach is expanded. Please lead and innovate, save our park, and open up the possibility of more floating homes as a piece of the Bay Area's solution to the housing crisis.

2. The MLK plans are flawed -- there's no bathroom access.

As a several times a week user of the tennis courts at MLK, I dread your design. What is now a lovely, soul nourishing outdoor sport experience in an open vista public park will become a blockaded, blighted experience where folks have to scramble for parking, much to the annoyance of the neighbors.

What's more, have you thought through the public restrooms? They are already quite a distance from the tennis courts. Unless you plan on providing a public restroom in the apartment building or easy access through the apartment building to the current restrooms, tennis players would have to disrupt their play for 10-15 minutes to hike around the apartment complex. This is hardly 21st Century best practice for public tennis courts in public parks.

Please, rethink this one and seize the opportunity for innovative leadership.

Sincerely,

Lois Salisbury
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