

From: Sally Nelson sallynels7@gmail.com
Subject: 1900 4th Street & SB35 fast track permit
Date: May 16, 2018 at 5:06 PM
To: Sally Nelson sallynels7@gmail.com

To the City of Berkeley Planning Department

I am one of many citizens who are concerned about the possibility of commercial development on 1900 Fourth Street. This site is sacred to the Ohlone people, a group comprised of over a dozen tribes. This is the oldest known site in the Bay Area to have been inhabited by Native people, the First people in the area. The Ancient Shellmound there was over 40 feet high until the early 1900s when non-natives began dismantling it for street paving and other uses. The West Berkeley Ancient Shellmound Site is 5,700 years old, according to a 1997 report by geophysicist B. Lynn Ingram. His report also states that the site was occupied for 4,500 years. We need to remember that the Shellmound was used for human burial, and human remains have been found in the area much larger than the 1900 4th Street site.

You have already been referred to various resolutions, historical listings, and ordinances by the City of Berkeley, including:

1. The 2000 designation of the site as Berkeley Landmark #227 by the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The site is *"most highly significant to native descendants as a sacred burial ground."*
2. The site's listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, and its determined eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.
3. Berkeley's Municipal Code 3.24.260 "Permit application" states that *"For applications relating to landmark sites, the proposed work shall not adversely affect . . . the special character or special historical, architectural or aesthetic interest or value of the landmark and its site."* The violation of this code should not be permitted with the fast-tracking of SB35.

The city should disallow any commercial development of the West Berkeley Shellmound and Ohlone Village Site. Any permitting of commercial development should be denied. The exemptions allowed by SB35 are not permissible for this site.

The City of Berkeley has an opportunity to finally recognize and honor the first inhabitants of this area, and especially of this site. Rather than yet another commercial building, the area should be developed by the Ohlone people as a major memorial and educational site, surrounded by a park which honors those buried there so long ago, and which would serve as place for ceremony and prayer. Such a memorial needs to be located **on this site**, on this location which has such historic and cultural significance (and not on the other side of the railroad tracks, as one commissioner suggested).

What a privilege it would be for the City of Berkeley to be known as a city who honors its original inhabitants, the Ohlone people, and their culture in the past, present, and future.

Sincerely,
Sally Nelson, residing in Berkeley since 1977
2200 McGee Avenue
Berkeley, CA. 94703

16 May 2018

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