



Asian Pacific Environmental Network

Community Organizing for
Accountable and Equitable Development

Vision & Mission

All people have a right to a clean and healthy environment in which their communities can live, work, learn, play and thrive.

Towards this vision, APEN brings together a collective voice to develop an alternative agenda for environmental, social and economic justice.

APEN holds this vision of environmental justice for all people. Our work focuses on Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

Strategies



Community organizing and leadership development



Campaigns and policy advocacy (local and state)



Electoral organizing

Movement building

Healthy, Green and Just Communities Agenda

HEALTHY, VIBRANT NEIGHBORHOODS

Land use policy, community & economic development that builds green, healthy, affordable, culturally vibrant neighborhoods that lift up the existing community to thrive.

CLEAN AIR, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Pollution reduction and a transition to alternative energy to benefit climate and public health.

GREEN ECONOMY AND GREEN JOBS

A just transition for workers and communities to an economy that meets community needs, provides quality living-wage jobs, is good for the environment, and provides opportunities for ALL.

DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

Those most impacted by the economic and environmental crises are able to fully engage in the decisions that affect their lives and hold governments accountable to community interests.

Laotian Organizing Project

Started in 1995 in Richmond, CA

- Low-income Laotian refugees
- 350 toxic facilities

Campaigns:

- Multilingual Warning System
- Toxic Seafood Consumption
- General Plan update
- Stopping Chevron's expansion



Power in Asians Organizing

Started in 2004 in Oakland, CA

- Low-income Chinese immigrant
- APIs = 15% of Oakland

Campaigns:

- AXT Worker Health Justice
- Oak to 9th Community Benefits
- Oakland Climate Action Plan
- Lake Merritt BART TOD



Oak to 9th Community Benefits Campaign

Developer's Plans

- Smart growth
- 3100 units market rate housing
- 200,000 sq ft retail
- 64 acres of Port-owned land

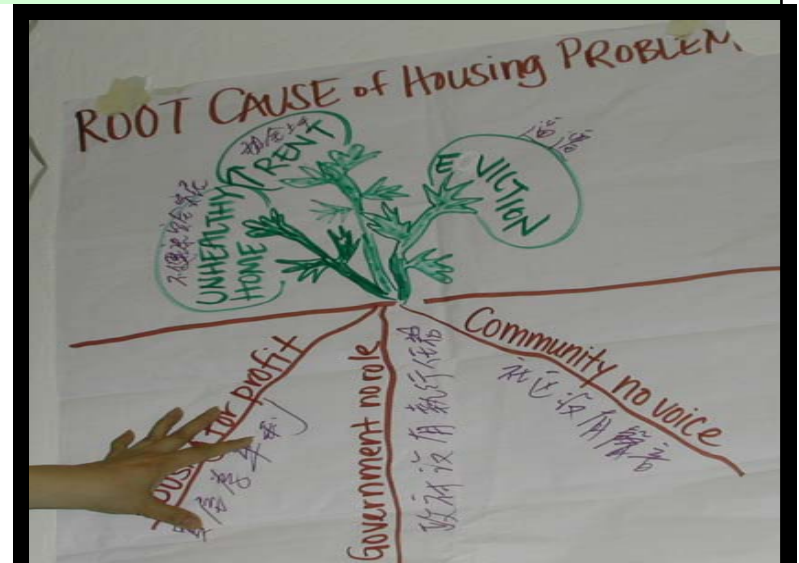


Community Issues

- Biggest development in Oakland since World War II
- Built next to low-income neighborhoods of color
- Affordable housing crisis and gentrification
- Land owned by Port sold at deep discount

Organizing to Win

- Organized, multiracial base of community residents
- 16 member coalition led by neighborhood-based organizations
- 3 years from coalition and basebuilding to negotiations and agreement



What We Won

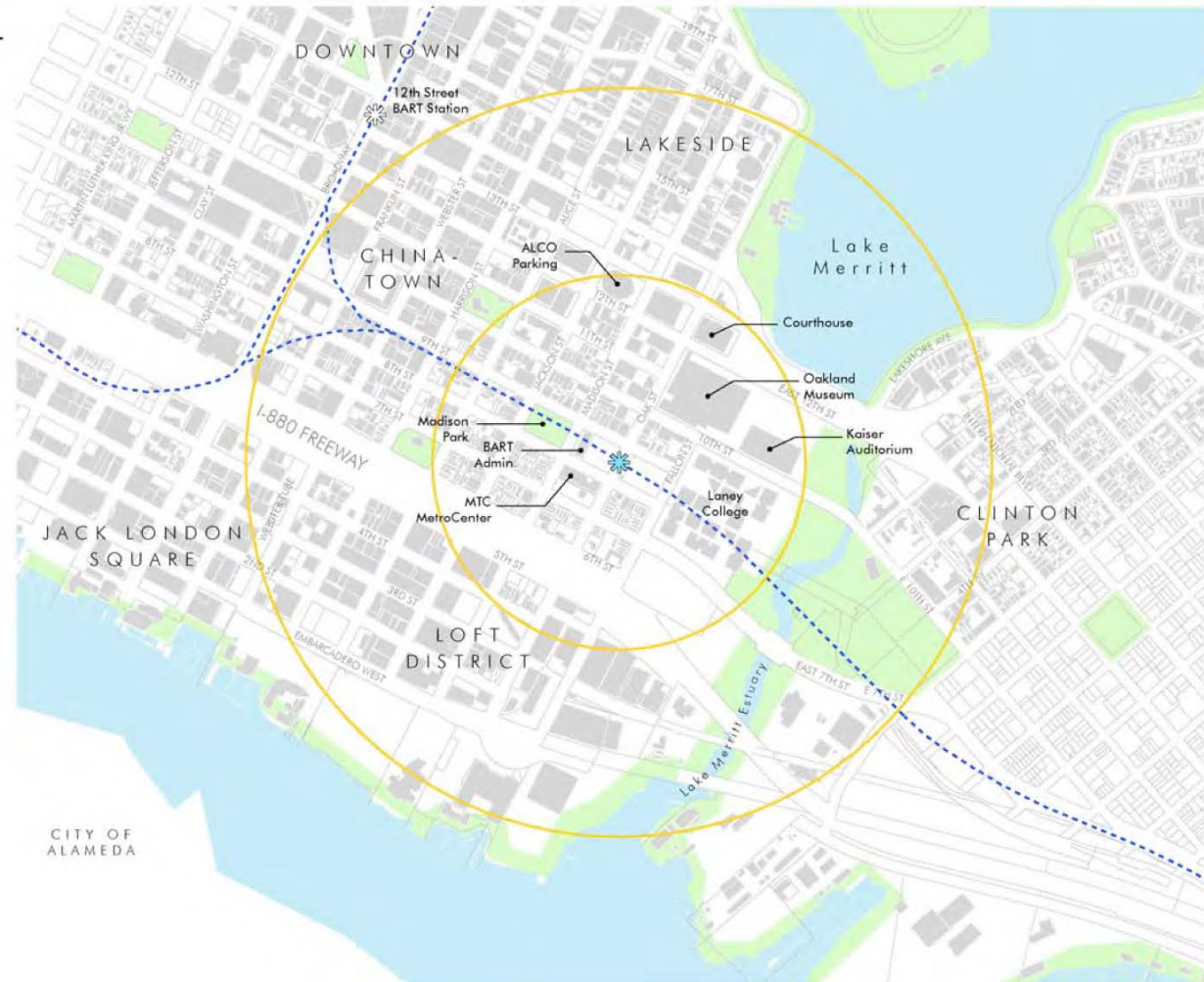
- 465 units of affordable housing
 - 15% of overall, onsite, very low-income
 - 50% family sized (2-3 bedroom)
 - Built in earlier phase of project
- 300 entry level construction jobs
- \$1.65 million for job training
 - Local residents
 - Formerly incarcerated

Challenges

- Project by project approach is drain on resources.
- Lack of comprehensive approach to address community needs.
- Limited political will for more equitable development policies.

Chinatown / Lake Merritt

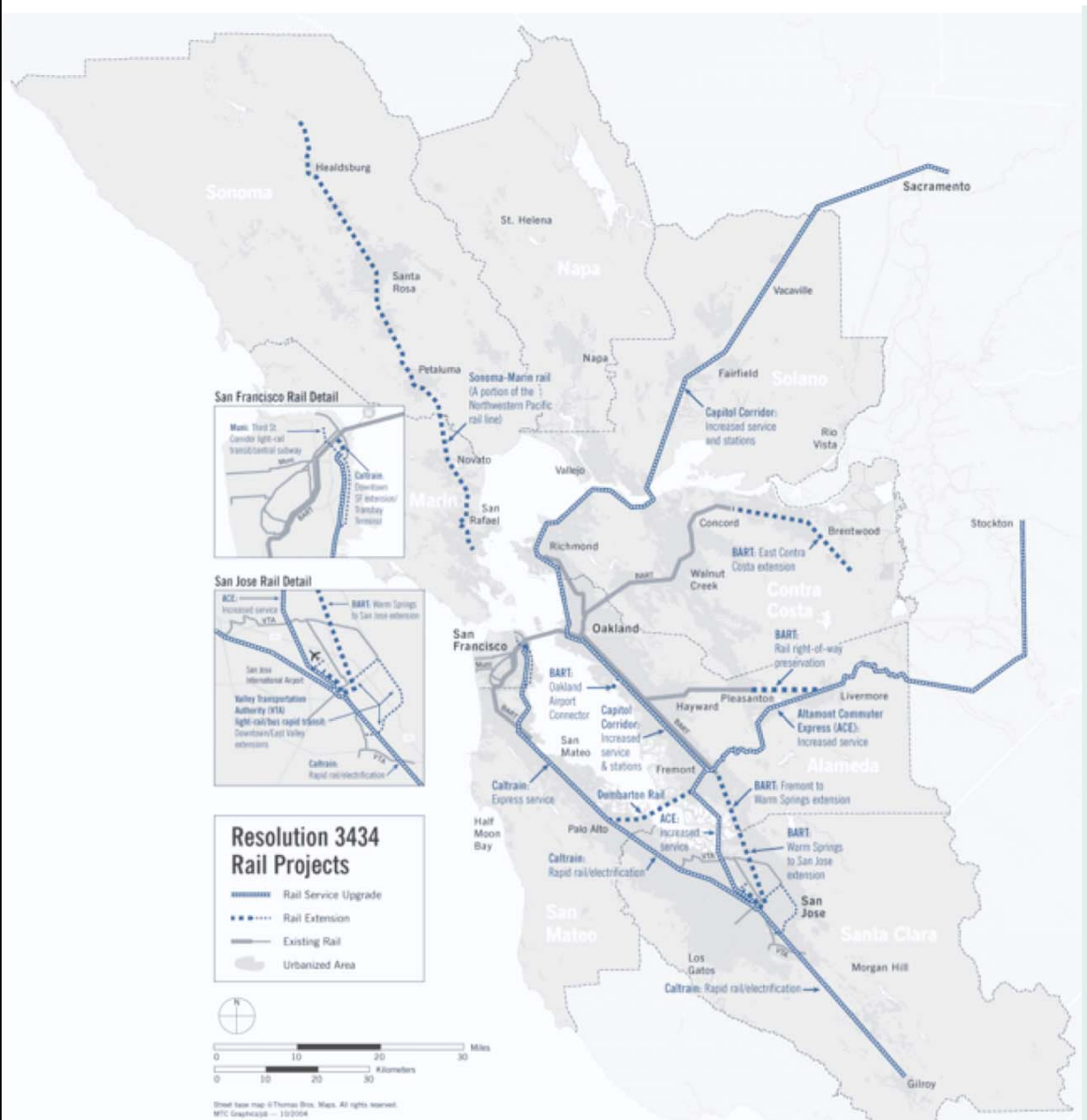
Lake Merritt BART Station Area



-  Lake Merritt BART Station
-  1/4 and 1/2 Mile Radii
-  Underground BART Alignment



New Transit Investments Lead the Way



- \$60 million- MTC planning funds
 - 100 station area plans
- \$12 billion- local bonds
- \$1.5 billion- state infrastructure funds
- Potential of what could come from the Reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Bill in 2011

What: Our Goal

GREAT COMMUNITIES

C O L L A B O R A T I V E

By 2030 all people in the Bay Area will live in complete communities, affordable across all incomes, with access to quality transit.

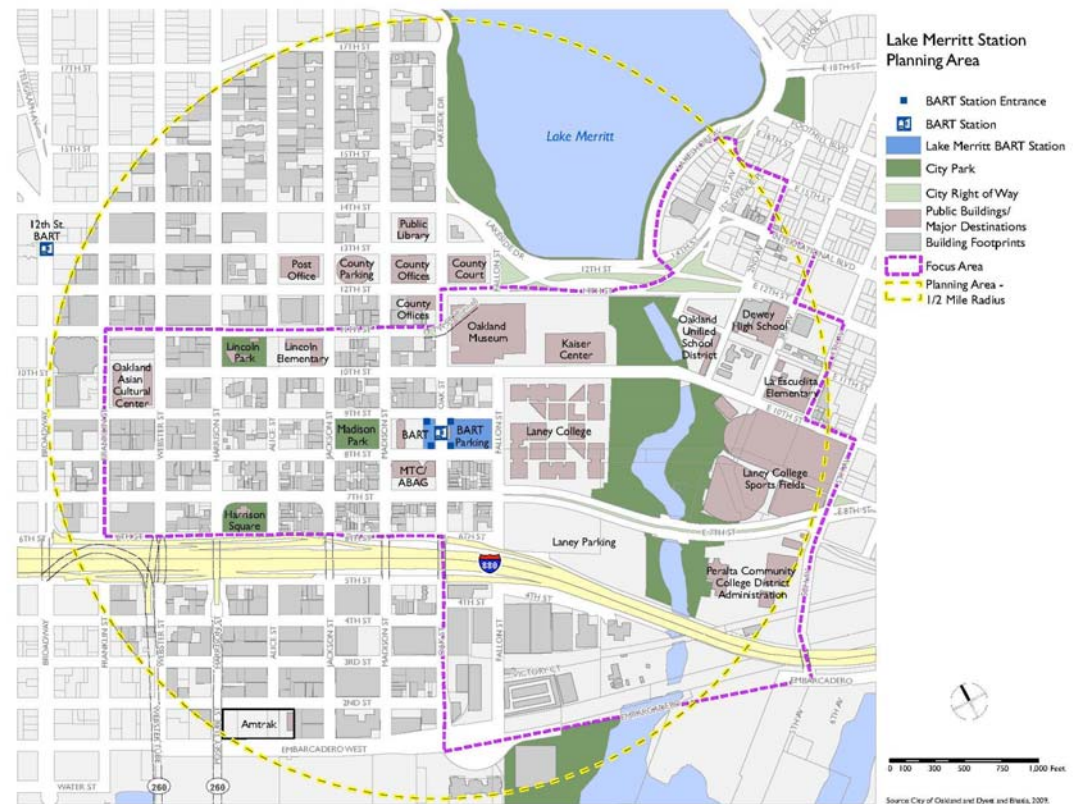
- **Engage deeply in 25 local planning efforts to influence 100 plans**
- **Target low and moderate income neighborhoods**
- **Get mixed-income TOD built**
- **Build a regional policy framework**

Where: The 9-county Bay Area



Lake Merritt BART Station

- Early community involvement in planning process
- Diverse coalition including AHS and EBALDC
- TA providers on housing, transit, health



Guiding Principles

- **Public Safety**
- **Jobs**
- **Housing**
- **Health**
- **Community Facilities and Open Space**
- **Business**
- **Transportation**
- **Cultural Preservation**
- **Community Engagement**



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Keys to Community Success

1. EJ Analysis

- Race, class front and center

2. Bottom-up, Base-led

- Leadership development and training
- Decisions made by neighborhood residents

3. Building Power

- Multiracial coalition building
- Electoral organizing

