

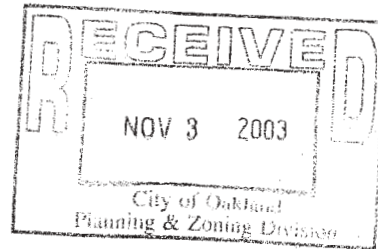


CHINESE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

965 Clay Street • San Francisco, CA 94108-1527 • tel 415-391-1188 • fax 415-391-1150 • www.chsa.org

November 3, 2003

Ms. Lynn Warner
Case Planner for Case File Number ER 03-0007
City of Oakland Planning Division
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 3330
Oakland, CA 94612



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Dear Ms. Warner,

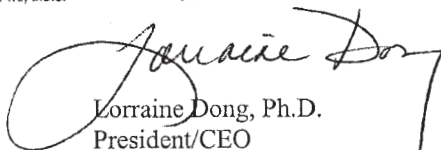
I am writing this letter of concern on behalf of the Chinese Historical Society of America. Established in 1963, CHSA is the oldest not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, education, and preservation of Chinese American history.

We have just been informed of the proposed Uptown Mixed Use Redevelopment Project (case file number ER 03-0007) that plans to demolish all the buildings for the area between San Pablo and Telegraph Avenues and between 21st and 18th Streets. With the understanding that this area might contain archaeological remains of Oakland Chinatown that existed anywhere between 1867 to 1894, CHSA urges the City of Oakland's Planning Division to stop the full-scale demolition of this area until measures are secured to ascertain the existence of such archaeological remains in order to preserve them for posterity.

The City of Oakland has tried numerous times in the past to expel Chinese in the area for redevelopment reasons. The Uptown Project appears to be the continuation of a history that prejudices and ignores the existence of the Chinese in America, all in the name of redevelopment. If we want to rectify mistakes made in the past, then Oakland must take proactive steps to show everyone that it is not trying again to bury this historic Chinese American community permanently into oblivion.

Once again, the Chinese Historical Society of America urges you to acknowledge and preserve the historical significance of the area being proposed for demolition. We do not see any valid necessity for making this a "rush job" that might cause great regret in the future.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Dong, Ph.D.
President/CEO

cc: Councilmember Henry Chang (hchang@oaklandnet.com)
Councilmember Jean Quan (jqquan@oaklandnet.com)
Councilmember Danny Wan (dwan@oaklandnet.com)