



## Congresswoman Barbara Lee Holds Press Conference in Alameda

### Sun Staff Reports

California Congresswoman Barbara Lee held a press conference Friday, June 3, at the Veterans Court Seawall on Bay Farm Island to highlight one of several East Bay projects that will receive Federal funding for upgrades.

Notable names in attendance for Lee's speech included Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin and Erika Simpson-Akpawu, CEO of West Oakland Health Council.

The press conference marked the last stop on the congresswoman's tour of East Bay community projects receiving federal funding in this year's budget. The seawall project will receive \$1.5 million. It was not determined how the funds will be spent but the money will help strengthen Alameda's coastal resiliency, according to Lee. Sea level rise is a major concern for the city.

"The City of Alameda is grateful to Congresswoman Barbara Lee and our Congressional leadership for their dedicated work on the appropriations bill, which includes \$1.5 million to develop a long-term solution to coastal flooding in the Veterans Court area of Bay Farm Island," said Ashcraft in a press release. "This project will provide critical relief to address the risk of flooding in adjacent residential neighborhoods, schools, roadways, commercial properties, Chuck Corica Park municipal golf course, and the Oakland Airport."

Lee was able to secure \$10.3 million in funding from the FY22 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The bill itself includes \$730 billion in non-defense funding, according to a press release from the U.S. Appropriations House Committee. The bill, passed by the House of Representatives, will fund projects nationwide that support the health, wellbeing, and economic recovery of communities after the pandemic.

"The recipients of this fund-



Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Office

Pictured: (bottom) AC Transit Board of Director H. E. Christian Peebles. (Standing from left to right) Scott Means, Aging and Adult Services Manager, Oakland Human Services Department; Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin; Alameda Mayor Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft; Emeryville Mayor John Bauters; California 13th District Congresswoman Barbara Lee; and Erika Simpson-Akpawu, CEO of West Oakland Health Council.

ing are doing critical work to help the East Bay community recover from the pandemic, respond to the climate crisis, increase access to affordable housing, and improve the health, wellbeing, and safety of our residents," said Lee.

The Veterans Court Seawall project is just one of the projects in Lee's district that will receive funding from the bill. An affordable housing development/environmental clean-up project in Emeryville will receive \$2 million, a trash capture project in San Leandro will receive \$1 million, the Oakland Cultural and Commercial Corridor Recovery project will receive \$1 million, and the Oakland Mental Health Resilience project will receive \$1.23 million.

The bill will also allocate \$1.25 million for facilities and equipment upgrades at the West Oakland Health Council, \$1 million for the

African American Holistic Resource Center in Berkeley and \$350,000 for facilities and equipment upgrades at the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center. Youth ALIVE, a violence prevention organization, will receive \$500,000. The Oakland Symphony will also receive \$500,000 for its MUSE Program.

Congresswoman Lee is the U.S. representative for California's 13th Congressional District, which encompasses coastal East Bay cities such as Alameda, Oakland and Berkeley. Lee, a Democrat, has served in her role since 1998 and is in her 12th term. Lee is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee and Chair of the Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations.

To learn more about the projects receiving Federal funds, visit [www.lee.house.gov](http://www.lee.house.gov).



City of Alameda

The city suggests drivers use the Park Street Bridge as a detour during the Webster and Posey Tube closures on Wednesday.

## Webster and Posey Tubes to Close for Fire Drill

### Sun Staff Reports

The City of Alameda is notifying residents to not be alarmed if they see smoke or hear sirens blaring at the Webster and Posey Tubes (State Route 61) the night of Wednesday, June 15. The smoke and sirens will be due to a drill by the Oakland and Alameda fire departments.

The tubes, which connects the cities of Oakland and Alameda, will close Wednesday night so the fire departments can test equipment, practice working in the tubes and otherwise make sure the two agencies will be able to respond quickly and effectively in case of fire in either of the tubes, according to the City of Alameda.

The tubes will be closed one at a time. Posey Tube will be closed from 9 to 11:30 p.m. on June 15. Webster Tube will be closed from 11:30 p.m. on June 15 and reopen at 5 a.m. the following morning. One of the tubes will always be

open.

The Posey Tube carries one-way Oakland-bound traffic, while the Webster Tube carries traffic from Oakland to Alameda. The closures are nighttime only. Both tubes will remain open during the daytime.

Changeable message and directional signs will be in place to assist motorists traveling in the area. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) will be at the site during the closures.

Park Street Bridge is the nearest detour. Drivers heading toward Alameda from Oakland can travel south along I-880 and cross the Oakland Estuary via the Park Street Bridge, while drivers in Alameda heading toward Oakland can travel east along Atlantic Avenue to get to Park Street Bridge.

For more information, call Janis Mara at (510) 715-9291 or email at [Janis.Mara@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Janis.Mara@dot.ca.gov).

## Encinal Students March to City Hall to Protest Current Gun Laws



Kelly Quach via Encinal Horizon

Dozens of students gathered in front of City Hall during last Friday's protest.

### Sun Staff Reports

On June 3, Encinal High School (EHS) students participated in a walkout advocating for nationwide gun control in the aftermath of mass shooting events last month in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, Texas. Demonstrators marched from EHS, at 210 Central Ave., to City Hall — about 2.8 miles away.

Protesters held signs admonishing the country's current gun laws, or lack thereof. One person held a sign that read, "Protect kids, not guns." Another student's sign read, "How many lives is enough?" Once at City Hall, student demonstrators spoke to the



Robbie Camarillo via Encinal Horizon

crowd from the entrance steps. "We've protested several times at this school, and I've expected the same results as we did back in 2018 when we did a similar walkout to the one today," said EHS junior and co-organizer of the protest, Vinny Camarillo to EHS' *Horizon*, the school's news publication. "It makes me upset that we didn't have the same support as we did before."

Despite his frustration, Camarillo was optimistic. "I think it went well," he said. "The mayor did come out and said that they're working on the federal level to pass sensible gun laws."

## Alameda County Restores Mask Mandate for Indoor Public Settings

### Sun Staff Reports

The Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) reenacted masking protocols for most indoor public settings starting Friday, June 3. The announcement was made the day before on Thursday, June 2.

According to ACPHD's COVID-19 information portal, people are required to wear a mask, regardless of vaccination status, in the following settings:

- Indoors at businesses, government offices, youth-serving facilities (except K-12 school settings through the end of the 2021-22 school year), and workplace settings.
- On trains, buses, ferries, taxis and ride-shares.
- In transportation hubs like bus terminals, train stations, marinas, seaports or other ports, subway stations, or any other area that provides transportation
- Healthcare settings.
- State and local correctional facilities and detention centers.
- Shelters and cooling centers.

This order excludes the City of Berkeley, which utilizes its own independent local health jurisdiction. Alameda County will not require masking in K-12 school settings through the end of the 2021-22 school year, but masking is still strongly recommended. Masks will be required in all other children and youth settings, including childcare, summer school, and youth programs.

The restoration of the mask mandate is to "limit the impact of increasing COVID-19 cases on hospitalizations." According to the ACPHD, COVID-19 cases in Alameda County have reached the highest levels since winter 2020-2021 and daily new hospital admissions of patients with COVID-19 now exceed last summer's peak. ACPHD said the Hispanic/Latino residents now have the highest case rate in Alameda County.

"Rising COVID cases in Alameda County are now leading to more people being hospitalized and today's action reflects the seriousness of the

moment," said Alameda County Health Officer Dr. Nicholas Moss in a press release. "We cannot ignore the data, and we can't predict when this wave may end. Putting our masks back on gives us the best opportunity to limit the impact of a prolonged wave on our communities."

The ACPHD lifted the mask mandates in February ("Eleven Bay Area Health Officers Lift Most Indoor Mask Mandates," Feb. 17). Alameda Unified School District decided to continue its mask mandates at its member schools until March 8 ("AUSD's Mask Protocol Moves from Mandated to Strongly," March 15).

In addition to masking, residents are reminded to continue taking other steps to limit spreading COVID-19 including staying home if sick or positive, and keep gatherings small and outdoors.

To learn more about the new mask mandate, visit <https://covid-19.acgov.org>.

## June 7 Primary Election Has Ended

### Sun Staff

The Alameda Sun went to press before the initial results of the June 7 Primary Election were released.

Check the Alameda Sun website, [www.alamedasun.com](http://www.alamedasun.com), Thursday, June 9 for preliminary results of the Measure B school bond measure, and the races for Alameda County District Attorney, Sheriff/Coroner, Superintendent of Schools, and Board of Supervisors District 3 seat.

The major issue most Alamedans have been discussing, or at least sending letters to the Alameda Sun about, is Measure B. Measure B would authorize \$298 million in bonds to upgrade Alameda Unified School District classrooms, math/science labs, technology, college/career training facilities for high quality academic education; improve accessibility, earthquake safety, school security, water quality/plumbing systems; renovate, acquire, construct, classrooms, sites and facilities/equipment.

Results will be updated periodically by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters Office. It will likely take the Registrar's Office several weeks to certify the election results. To view updated results, visit [www.acvote.org/index](http://www.acvote.org/index).



City of Alameda

The polls are closed and now we await the results of the June 7 election.

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News: (510) 263-1470  
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Fax: (510) 263-1473

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Betty Young

**Alameda Sun Almanac**

Date	Rise	Set
Today	5:47	20:30
June 10	5:47	20:30
June 11	5:47	20:31
June 12	5:47	20:31
June 13	5:47	20:31
June 14	5:47	20:32
June 15	5:47	20:32

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