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Oakland Group Pushes for Good Jobs on Old Army Base

OAKLAND, Calif. (KCBS) -- It's been a decade since the Oakland Army Base closed, and the city is still entertaining bids to redevelop the sprawling waterfront property.

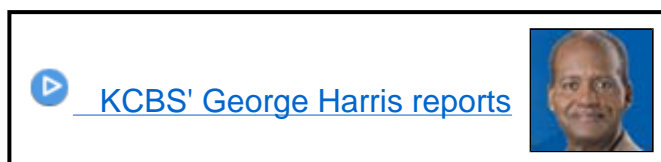
Some interest groups say that no matter what the area becomes, it should be developed, to bring more well paying jobs to the area.

"We really want to avoid creating jobs that are a drag on the local economy because they won't support a family by paying a living wage," said Bill Turnau, a 19-year resident of the West Oakland neighborhood.

Kate O'Hare with the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy says the closed army base offers a once in a lifetime opportunity.

"The base is really a rare gem. It's a large piece of public land available for development," said O'Hare.

Plans for a movie studio and shopping center were nixed, but over a dozen developers have shown interest in building on the army base, which has been closed since 1999.



(MGO)

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