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Report examines job impact of California army base redevelopment

East Bay Business Times - by [Marie-Anne Hogarth](#) Staff reporter

A report released Wednesday demonstrates that military base redevelopments in California fail to create "family-sustaining" jobs or address poverty.

The report by the nonprofit labor group **Partnership for Working Families** arrives as Oakland city officials this July will select three or four companies from a pool of 13 that responded to a Request for Qualifications to develop 108 acres of the city's former army base.

Among the choices is the master developer of the nearly-100-acre former Navy Fleet Industrial Supply Center in Alameda, **Catellus**, a company owned by Denver-based **ProLogis**. Another contender is **Federal Development LLC**, which is working on the redevelopment of Fort Ord near Monterey.

Labor groups, among them the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy, the **Central Labor Council** and ACORN, are pushing Oakland to select a redevelopment plan for the base that emphasizes logistics and warehousing, industries where workers tend to earn more than they would in retail. According to the report, the median wage for retail workers is \$14.89 while for logistics workers it is \$19.85.

Also, the groups are calling for a requirement that companies hire locally, including youth and formerly incarcerated workers, provide job training, and not rely on temporary workers.

They also want a labor peace agreement so that workers are allowed to organize into unions.

The report states that California lost 93,546 military and civilian jobs by 1995 due to base closures, over half of the total jobs lost in base closures nationally.

Fort Ord in Monterey, for instance, lost 16,454 jobs as a result of the base closure there, according to the report. It gained 4,551 jobs and has a projected job creation gain of 18,172 jobs. According to the report, the wages for these new jobs ranged from \$7.24 to \$15.18 an hour, below the estimated \$17.85 an hour that a family needs to survive.

The Oakland Army Base lost 1,863 mostly civilian jobs when it shuttered in 1999, according to the report and since then has gained 487 jobs. The projected job gain is between 800 and 3,500.

The other developer candidates for the Oakland Army Base include **AMB / California Capital Group, First Industrial Realty Trust Inc., Hillwood, Jones Development Co., M&L Commodities, Oakland Bay Partners, Oakland Film Center, PCC Logistics, Prism Realty Corp., Triamid Galaxies** and **W&E Group Inc.**

Partnership for Working Families is affiliated with Oakland-based **East Bay Alliance for Sustainable Economy**, which has waged campaigns locally including one to pass a living wage law for large hotels in Emeryville.

mhogarth@bizjournals.com / 925-598-1432

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