

Why is Action Alameda Necessary?

Because our public utility Alameda Power and Telecom is approximately \$80 million dollars in debt for costs incurred while building a cable television network even after a council resolution declared that a financial firewall be enacted to not allow the cable division to borrow from the power division. How did this happen?

Because our public school system is deeply in debt and considering cutting schools, services and asking another increase in property taxes to help bail them out while our city council is spending approximately \$30 million to construct a new cineplex and parking garage downtown which many experts and citizens think is out of proportion and fiscally and environmentally unsound.

Because several of our major development projects in the past couple of years have been approved piecemeal and behind closed doors with only conceptual plans for what would actually be built being shown to the public. Then when the final plans were released and subsequently opposed, the citizens were told it was too late and tough luck.

Because many recent development projects have been approved based on the results of consultant reports, which are biased, incomplete or profoundly inaccurate portrayals of the environmental and financial factors that accompany the projects.

Because in Fiscal Year 2004-2005 (the most recent figures available), the City of Alameda raised \$9M in incremental property taxes, of which \$4.7M was spent on administrative costs, \$4.0M was spent on interest and less than \$1M spent on debt repayment, while only \$400K was passed through to the school district.

Because monied special interests are currently calling the shots in Alameda especially as involves land use and development and it's time to put the power back in the hands of the people.

This is a crucial time in the development of our island community and we will only have one chance to get it right. If we do not step in and take action now, it may be too late later.

Because many hands make light work and what is needed is a true community effort. No individual citizen can impact the above situations single handedly. But, if we all work together we just may be able to take back our community. Alameda should belong to all citizens, not just a few and certainly not to out of town developers who are only here for financial gain at our expense.