



**For Immediate Release:
Alameda County Sale of Coliseum to Oakland A's Violates California Law**

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July 20, 2021 – Alameda County is facing a lawsuit from the community around the Coliseum, which the County committed to sell to the Fisher-owned Oakland Athletics without first offering the land for affordable housing. After months of threatening to leave Oakland, Athletics's President Dave Kaval today said the vote for the City's term sheet does not work for the A's. If the A's leave Oakland, they have only 180 days to complete their purchase of the County's share of the Coliseum land. In a convoluted deal struck between the County and the A's just before Christmas 2019, the County committed to sell its half share of the Coliseum to the A's by 2026. As the A's have said repeatedly, they do not intend to build a new ballpark home for the team at Coliseum, as many in Oakland urge. Instead, they plan to develop the Coliseum land for profit.

Meanwhile, Alameda County faces a housing and environmental justice crisis of unthinkable proportions. In 2020, the County homeless count was 8,437, of whom 3,831 identified as Black and 1,461 identified as Latinx. This was a 3,000 person increase from 2018, when the total was 5,496, of whom 2,722 identified as Black and 929 identified as Latinx. California requires that when a public entity like Alameda County sells land it no longer needs, the land first be offered for affordable housing, and any purchaser must commit that at least 15% of housing built on the land will be affordable. The County not only failed to offer its share of the Coliseum for any affordable housing provider before selling to the A's, its development agreement also fails to include a requirement regarding affordable housing. In other words, the Fisher family, which owns the A's, is able to build luxury housing with no duty to house Oakland's unhoused community.

"I am shocked but not surprised that the County failed to explore affordable housing before selling the Coliseum," said Esther Goolsby, longtime resident and neighbor of the Coliseum who ran for Alameda County Board of Supervisors advocating for greater responsibility to the County's low-income residents and residents of color. "We need our public lands for public good. Selling the Coliseum without considering what low-income people need is the opposite of that - we need affordable housing so we can all be safe at home."

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Communities for a Better Environment is one of the nation's preeminent environmental justice organizations. CBE's mission is to build people's power in California's low-income communities of color to achieve environmental health and justice by preventing and reducing pollution by building green, healthy, and sustainable communities and environments. <http://www.cbeocal.org/>.