



*inspiring people to protect
Bay Area birds since 1917*

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Governor Brown Signs A's Stadium Bill Requiring Bird-Friendly Compliance

Signed into law on September 30, 2018 Assembly Bill 734 (Bonta), limits the time environmental lawsuits can be filed against the Oakland A's ballpark. Not a fan of expedited environmental review, Golden Gate Audubon Society-- which represents over 7,000 members in Oakland and nearby cities—authored an amendment ensuring that any Oakland A's sports and mixed-use projects must be built in conformity with Oakland's bird safe building guidelines.

Between 750 million to 1 billion birds are killed in North America each year as a result of collisions with human made structures. Birds do not perceive glass, whether transparent or reflective, as solid. Consequently, they often fatally collide with glass on buildings. Nighttime lights worsen the problem by drawing birds off their migratory routes and into dense downtown areas, increasing the probability of fatal collisions with buildings.

Together with Oakland planning staff, Golden Gate Audubon Society formulated and implemented Standards for Bird-Safe Buildings to reduce bird collisions and other negative impacts to wildlife. These measures were added to Oakland's standard building permit requirements in 2013. New structures that have large areas of glass as part of their exterior, or are near open space, parks, or large bodies of water like the Oakland Estuary, are required to conform to the standards.

"Because Oakland's Bay shorelines, Lake Merritt, and riparian corridors support a high volume of diverse bird life, it is imperative that developers and architects apply best management practices to protect wildlife. These include a range of solutions that make glass more visible to birds, as well as, avoiding up-lighting, especially during migration, so birds are not drawn off their migratory routes. Straightforward strategies such as these can avoid countless bird deaths and should be instituted throughout the state and country," said Cindy Margulis, Golden Gate Audubon Society Executive Director.

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