

San Francisco Chronicle

Ward H. Bushee
Executive Vice President and Editor

Executive Vice President

John Diaz

Oakland's meters

Oakland should end enforcement of parking meters at 6 p.m. — not at 8 p.m. Raising the meter rate to \$2 per hour is bad enough, but increasing the time people have to pay the meter is bad policy.

Times are bad enough for the common folks and, yes, Oakland needs to bridge its budget deficit, but does it have to be done at the expense of people who live and shop in Oakland? Who wants the hassle of getting up in the middle of a dinner or show to pay the meter? Who wants to pay the parking fine of \$55 if they forget? An unintended consequence of this new law is that many people are taking their business elsewhere.

DENNIS WONG
Oakland