
CSFN NEWS

A Tale of Two States by Charles Head



When power, and then water, went out over many counties in Texas in February, there was much wailing and gnashing of teeth about the storm of the century or the unique freezing weather that was unforeseeable. Rachel Maddow gave the truth to this lie on her MSNBC show by charting how since 1988 about every ten years bad weather comes its ways to the state that refuses to winterize the turbines supplying electricity to its grid. It is proudly self-regulating, allowing supply and demand to determine how

**“ Don’t Bet
on Texas !”
- Dennis
Herrera, City
Attorney for
San
Francisco.**

power is generated and how much it will cost.

The result? One customer had \$17,000 taken from his bank account for less than a week of electricity, while most customers had no power at all for much more than that time! The fallacy that Texans believed in was...Avocados! During an avocado shortage in the recent past, people did without or paid more. The problem is that a power outage during severe winter weather causes misery and even death, not just a dearth of guacamole. Even Senator Ted Cruz, he who fled the freeze to frolic in Cancun, called on state and local regulators to act, that "no power company should get a windfall because of a natural disaster". Note that he did not say Federal ones. Texas is so phobic to such laws that it is unique among the lower 48 in isolating its grid to prevent federal oversight!



Climate change and human folly has caused a generation of catastrophes in the proud Lone Star state. The Golden State has had no such similar winter problems, but we have had powerful problems in our summer seasons for a long time now. Full disclosure: the drought induced fires have affected me

Nulla nunc lectus porttitor vitae pulvinar magna. Sed et lacus quis enim mattis nonummy sodales.

“Sud accumsan libero pretium pharetra quis. Nunc elit lorem magna vitae.”

personally, in two ways. The first time I served on our civil grand jury, we were prevented from our mandated visit to Hetch Hetchy by the fires in Yosemite. And since the Paradise fires, I have suffered from asthma, chemically induced by the smoke therefrom.

-DIAM NOBIS

Drought is upon us again in the Bear Republic, but we are taking measures for its consequences. Conservation is the rule throughout the state now, but other ideas are being considered as well. Some counties are questioning planned developments that are in peril of wildfires, and many counties are planning better brush clearing

and other forest management techniques. Utilities are on notice to maintain their grids to avoid sparking conflagrations like those we have had in the past, and their commissions are committed to avoid lengthy rolling blackouts that have hobbled retailers and residences during frequent violent windy periods over the months.

So the response to the mendacious politicians from other states who want people to migrate to their cooler climes is obvious. California may be expensive, and is not perfect, but has learned from its mistakes in many ways. It even suffered through the crisis caused by Texas's Enron Company, which caused the bankruptcy of Enron and the national Accounting Firm it employed. The scandal even led to the recall of the then governor Gray Davis, which has echoes of in current politics!

Our state has provided safe and reliable energy, delivered pristine drinking water, and is improving its infrastructure at a time when our neighbors have dithered and delayed so doing. Better to count on the surer thing,, and don't count California out!

NB: " The two states were neck and neck (in Corona-19 vaccination rates) until a harsh winter storm in February knocked out power for a week in mush of Texas . ' We never really recovered after that, and exactly why, beyond our size, is not entirely clear, ' said Dr. Peter Hotez, dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine. "

**Written by Charles Head, President of CSFN
Glenn Rogers, Editor**



From the Desk of the President: HURRAH FOR HERRERA!

HURRAH FOR HERRERA!

Kudos to Mayor Breed for naming City Attorney Dennis Herrera to be General Manager of the head of the Public Utilities Commission. He who has headed an investigation into Municipal Corruption should be the one who comes in to sweep the house clean! We have already heard from members of the Controller's Office as to their Public Integrity Investigations, and we shall hear more from them in the future. Now, however, we have the prospect of a firm hand at the helm of this important unit of the city's infrastructure. Be sure to read our speaker from two years ago, Heather Knight, in her column on Dennis Herrera.

[https://www.sfchronicle.com/local/heatherknight/article/City-Attorney-Herrera-](https://www.sfchronicle.com/local/heatherknight/article/City-Attorney-Herrera-dishes-on-City-Hall-16133861.php)

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AND LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE SF CIVIL GRAND JURY!

Twice now I have served a one year term on this august institution, and I heartedly commend it to you. In my first term we investigated the Ethics Commission, which resulted in the resignation of its then executive director. Currently a fellow member of that investigation is now a respected commissioner of it. We have heard from him in the past, and we shall hear more from him in the future! And more recently I served as the secretary of the CGI and also headed an investigation into aspects of the Park and Recreation Department. We also touched on some public/private partnerships such as the Parks Alliance, which has come into disrepute for its attack on Supervisor Chan. See the website and apply before it's too late: you won't regret it!

<https://civilgrandjury.sfgov.org/join.html>

Charles Head, President of CSFN



**CSFN AGENDA FOR MAY 18, 2021, TUESDAY, 6:30 PM
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- I. SIGN IN AND ANSWER POLL
- II. PROGRAM; CITY ATTORNEY DENNIS HERRERA.
- III. OFFICERS REPORTS
 - A. PRESIDENT
 - B. VICE-PRESIDENT
 - C. RECORDING SECRETARY
 - D. CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
 - E. TREASURER
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. EXECUTIVE
 - B. RULES
 - C. LAND USE
 - D. GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS
 - E. OTHER
- V. SPECIAL ORDER; ELECTION OF OFFICERS (DELEGATES ONLY)
- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES
 - B. OTHER
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. SB 37 Resolution
 - B. OTHER
- VII. ADJOURNMENT.

Charles Head, President of CSFN



CSFN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, April 28, 2021 / 5:30 PM / By ZOOM

Glenn Rogers, Charles Head, Richard Frisbie, Mari Eliza, Al Fontes, Clair Zvanski, and Mary Harris. Absent, Greg Scott, Cindy Beckman, George Wooding.

5:29 pm I **Call to Order/Quorum.**Met, ZOOM host Glenn Rogers

5:30 pm II **Officers Reports**

- A. President: Budget finance meeting report, Treasure Island Management Agency report, federal contracts to pay \$15 an hour, SEIU has Avalos as a new member.
- B. Vice President, SFCTA changed dramatically their position after reading our article.
- C. Recording Secretary: absent.
- D. Corresponding Secretary: missed mail again.
- E. Treasurer: absent.

5:35 pm III **Committee Reports**

- A. Executive Committee, we must have live meetings at least two times a year. Holiday Dinner possibilities are North Beach Restaurant, Italian American Athletic Club, Italian American Social Club and Sons of Italy.
- B. Land Use and Transportation: Two meetings occurred before the GA.
- C. Government and Elections: Absent
- D. Bylaws. No report.
- E. Nominating Committee progress: Mary claims Shamann Walton to be present. Requires language for swearing in.
- F. Open Space: San Franciscans have been reported leaving SF and moving to Woodside and Atherton to get way.

5:43 pm IV **New Business**

- A. Next Program?
- B. Solar Roads by Glenn Rogers.

6:48 pm V **Unfinished Business**

- A. The Conversation Continues...
- B. Recruitment: Sunnyside Neighborhood Organization considering joining CSFN.

6:52 pm VI **Adjourn**

By Glenn Rogers, Vice President CSFN



The Nominations Committee has completed the nominations process for CSFN's 2021 - 2022 officers. In March we contacted each current officer to determine if they wish to stand for re-election. All incumbent officers responded that they wish to serve another term. We announced the nominations process at the March and April General Assembly meetings and in the CSFN newsletter. Based on these activities, we submit this report and the following slate to be presented at the May General Assembly meeting:

- The following incumbents will stand for re-election:
 - President: Charles Head
 - 1st VP: Glenn Rogers
 - Corresponding Secretary: Al Fontes
 - Recording Secretary: Cindy Beckman
 - Treasurer: Greg Scott
 - Member-at-Large: Richard Frisbie
 - Member-at-Large: Mari Eliza
 - Member-at-Large: Mary Harris
- We do not have a candidate for this vacant position: Second Vice President

Respectfully submitted,
Members of the Nominations Committee - Al Fontes, Carolyn Kenady, and Frank Noto



School Board recall. April 4:

The San Francisco Department of Elections approved petition circulation to begin this week in the effort to recall part of the San Francisco Unified School District Board of Education. Three members – Gabriela López, Alison Collins, and Faauuga Moliga – were named in the recall paperwork. Recall supporters have until Sept. 7 to collect 51,325 signatures.

The team organizing the recall now has 160 days to gather around 50,000 valid signatures for each of the three members to place it on the ballot. If they reach that threshold, the city will then call a special recall election within 100 days. At the earliest, a recall vote would occur in late November.

San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin Recall, Friday March 12

A total of 51,325 signatures are required by August 11 to qualify for a special election, which accounts for 10% of San Francisco's registered voter population.

Now, San Franciscans wait. There are four more months left for signature gathering. If Boudin's detractors achieve the required number of valid signatures, the recall will head to the ballot box-- most likely in November-- and San Franciscans will vote in a special election.

Recall of California Governor Gavin Newsom

Although Governor Newsom has been the subject of other recall campaigns, this is the first effort to reach the required threshold number of petition signatures and move to the verification process to determine if enough of the names are registered California voters. On April 26, it was announced that 1,495,709 signatures, the number needed to launch a recall election, had been verified.

Although the number of signatures has not yet been certified by California's Secretary of State—the upcoming election will become official. The recall election would be held in November.

The election of San Francisco's new City Attorney:

SF Mayor London Breed announced that SF City Attorney Dennis Herrera would be appointed the new head of the SFPUC. Herrera's appointment means Mayor Breed can now appoint a new City Attorney. Ironically, Herrera had been in charge of investigating City Hall's rash of criminal behavior--including Mayor Breed's acceptance of \$5,600 in gifts from former boyfriend and subordinate Mohammed Nuru.

Monday's announcement also made it increasingly likely that the board would call for a local election this year, which they can do due to the likely statewide recall election of Gov. Gavin Newsom. That means Breed's appointment may have to immediately run to keep the seat — but only if they're appointed more than 120 days before the election.

The appointment of a new City Attorney also made it increasingly likely that the Board of Supervisors would call for a local election this year, which they can do due to the likely statewide recall election of Gov. Gavin Newsom. That means Breed's appointment may have to immediately run to keep the seat — but only if they're appointed more than 120 days before the election.

George Wooding, Chair Government and Elections



CSFN, LUTC Meeting – Town Hall with Mission Verde on May 5, 2021

Started 4:30 PM, attendees: Josh Klipps, Kindrea, “D”, Mari, Al, Tomasita, Lance, Jean, Mary Klipps, Charles, who live in districts 1, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Supervisors supportive of trees are: Peskin, Mandelman, and Mar

Al spoke briefly about some issues with density bonus projects in North Beach. Some links are below to articles on the Telegraph Hill Site:

<https://thd.org/pz>

<https://thd.org/sb10>

<https://www.thd.org/bonus>

Josh brought a powerpoint that we will try to attach that explained the city tree programs and the processes that have been used to save trees. We had an enthusiastic Q and A session that resulted in the following action items:

Action Items:

1. We hope to write a resolution for CSFN to consider that would suggest a means of enforcing some of the requirements to grow the tree canopy in SF. We could consider tying funding to meeting climate goals for increasing the tree canopy, not just the number of trees, but the actual coverage. D-3 Telegraph Hill Dwellers and Al will work on this with Don Ariche and Peskin if possible. Josh will work with them. It seems that quite a few of the tree support is in District 3.
2. We will promote Mission Verde with publicity and sharing information about the program among the other neighborhoods.
3. We will consider how to use the department budgetary system, by tying funding to meeting climate goals for increasing the tree canopy, not just the number of trees, but the actual coverage.
4. We will oppose the state bills that threaten trees. (SB9 and SB10 and all the bills that threaten single family neighborhoods with private yards that contain a lot of the trees in San Francisco.)
5. We will look for examples of other cities that are doing a better job to see what we can learn from their success. LA is one city that seems to have a good program.
6. I forgot to mention this, but, we might consider a carbon tax on each tree cut down that releases carbon into the air. Charging a fee should put a damper on cutting trees. One might also consider charging a fine for cutting without a permit.

FYI: 1 tree = 20 air conditioners. Trees do an excellent job of cooling the city by circulating water. They also sequester carbon and produce oxygen. We need to maintain a healthy balance to keep our city air clean and healthy.

Mari Eliza, Chair Land Use and Transportation Committee



RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY TO STOP USING HUD'S AMI TO ADJUST RENTS

Whereas KPIX-5 reported on February 8, 2021 that rents in San Francisco affordable housing programs are nearing, and even surpassing, market rent levels;

Whereas numerous low income renters have lost income during the pandemic and owe back rent;

Whereas the Mayors Office of Housing (MOH) uses HUD's Area Median Income (AMI) figure to determine rent increases, and for other purposes (E.g. if the AMI goes up 4% from one year to the next, then the rents of affordable housing units can increase 4%);

Whereas the AMI reflects incomes at all levels;

Whereas the incomes of grocery workers only increased 14.2% between 2008 and 2017 according to the Embarcadero Institute (\$29,109-\$33,237);

Whereas the incomes of systems engineers increased 68.7% during the same time period (\$201,600-\$340,138);

Whereas MOH will increase rents based in part on the larger salary increases of individuals who do not require affordable housing units;

Whereas a HUD economist told the Rincon Point Neighbors Assoc. that cities should not be using the AMI to adjust rents;

Whereas HUD manually adjusts the AMI;

Whereas the AMI is not a reliable indicator of incomes or other economic changes;

Whereas the AMI increased 15% in 2019 and MOH had to override its long-standing procedures to prevent 15% rent increases on certified low income renters;

Whereas the CPI-based rent board increase was only 0.7%;

Whereas the AMI did not change at all in 2005, unlike any other economic indicator;

Whereas the AMI went down 4% in 2007 during the Bush recession but erratically went up 9% in 2008 as the recession deepened, unlike other economic indicators;

Whereas low income renters were not given 4% rent decreases in 2007 but were given 9% rent increases during the 2008 recession;

Whereas the former MOH Director, when asked to justify using the AMI, could only respond that other cities use it;

Whereas there are numerous valid economic indicators available from the Labor Department and state and local governments;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods urges the City and MOH to stop using the AMI to determine rent increases and for other housing program purposes.

Charles Head, President Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME OF MEMBER ORGANIZATION _____

Mailing Address _____ SF 941 _____ Email _____

CURRENT OFFICERS:

President	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone

Secretary	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone

Other Officer	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone

CSFN DELEGATE:

Name	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone

If your organization has alternate CSFN delegate(s):

Name	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone

Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email	Phone

DUES & DONATIONS

CSFN annual membership dues are \$45. Organizations wishing to include an additional donation to CSFN are encouraged to do so.

**Make check payable to "CSFN" and mail to:
Greg Scott, CSFN Treasurer, 637 Noe Street, San Francisco, CA 94114**

CSFN Membership Certification: CSFN Bylaws (Article II, Section A-G) require each voting member organization to certify that it has a membership of 35 or more in order to maintain voting privileges. Organizations not having the required membership may retain membership as associate members without voting privileges at CSFN's sole discretion.

I confirm that we are renewing as a:

Member Organization with 35 or more members

Associate (non-voting) Organization - number of current members: _____

Certifying Signature	Print name/Position	Date