
CSFN NEWS



A LOOK AT FIRE DANGER IN CALIFORNIA

SMOKEY THE BEAR

For many years and up until recently, we have heard Smokey the Bear warn us; “That only we can prevent forest fires”. This public service message went on for five decades and was the longest running add of its kind. The behavior from the U.S. Forest Service during this time was to put out fires immediately. In doing this, the U.S. Forest Service ignored the indigenous population which had a very different fire control behavior. The result of suppressing fire for decades, has been an ever increasing amount of combustibile material on our forest floor.

THE DEATH OF OUR FORESTS

In addition to this and likely because of Climate Change, the Pine Borer has increased its range in California and elsewhere. With milder winter temperatures, it has not gotten cold enough to kill this insect. Therefore, the Pine Borer, along with our recent intense droughts, has killed over 150 million trees. ¹

This is what a healthy forest looks like. Note a minimum of litter and trees spaced some distance apart. ¹

FUEL LOAD IN THE FOREST

The drought has also been killing our Coast Live Oak, Blue Oak and Interior Live Oak. The difference between oaks and conifers is significant. Trees provide a fuel load based on how long they have been collecting solar energy from the sun. The longer a tree has lived, the more fuel is preserved in the wood. Pine trees collect energy from the sun for up to one hundred years, while oak trees can collect energy from the sun for up to 400 years. It is a well know fact that oak wood produces better and more intense fires than pine trees. Therefore, when oak trees catch on fire in our forests, the heat is more intense and can cause more destruction. Hotter fires can create their own weather, including fire tornados. Annual grasses, that collect solar energy for only one season, do not create fires that are especially hot.

“What the US Forest Service once characterized as a [four-month](#)-long fire season starting in late summer and early autumn now stretches into six to eight months of the year. Wildfires are starting earlier, burning more intensely and scorching swaths of land larger than ever before. Risks for large, catastrophic fires like the Camp fire that leveled the town of Paradise in 2018 are rising.” This was reported in the Guardian, October 11, 2021. Today it is reported that the Dixie fire has burned over 963,200 acres.

INSECT COLLAPSE

Less know by the public is the fact that insects have been perishing dramatically during this time of intense drought and temperature rise. This is because insects are not able able to control their body temperatures as easily as other organisms. This has lead to the decline of 99% of the Monarch Butterfly due to habitat loss and temperature rise. Of course, with the decline of insects, the decline of other fauna that depend on insects for food occurs.

For example, published in the *Guardian*, in February of 2019, “More than then 40% of insect species are declining and a third are endangered, the analysis found. The rate of extinction is eight times faster than that of mammals, birds and reptiles. The total mass of insects is falling by a precipitous 2.5% a year, according to the best data available, suggesting they could vanish within a century.”



QUICK REACTION FORCE

One encouraging bit of news lately is that we now have new fire fighting equipment capable of dropping 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant precisely at the correct coordinates where a fire is present.. This Chinook aircraft takes only 90 seconds to refill itself after dropping a hose into a lake.. In addition, this aircraft is capable of flying at night when fires are most vulnerable because of a lack of wind. The Chinook price is \$15 million and costs \$8,000 an hour to operate, however, the cost of damage from the Dixie Fire is said to be \$365 million and rising. Despite the wonderful potential of the *Quick Reaction Strike Force*, this equipment returned home to Southern California being barely used here. It seems Cal Fire and the US Forest Service quarreled over the pilot's licenses, what radio channel they should use or how and who would feed them. After waiting for several days to be called into action, they returned to Southern California to fight fires there. It seems the US Forest Service, a federal; agency and Cal Fire, a State agency, need to better allocate new resources. This news was reported in *60 Minutes* on September 26, 2021.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S FIRE CONTROL BEHAVIOR

Twenty thousand years ago, there was a land bridge across the Bering Sea leading to North America. It was at this time, indigenous peoples entered North America. On the other hand, Europeans have lived here only since the later part of the 18th century, demanding fire suppression and forbidding indigenous people to practice cultural burning. Sadly European's understanding of the requirements of a healthy forest are nascent

When a cultural burn occurs by native Americans, they do not start a fire without knowing how the fire will behave. Today, tribal communities and government officials are cooperating and providing prescribed burns for up to half a million acres where forests are not too



Local Eucalyptus forests in San Francisco represent unhealthy forests. This forest, at Sutro Towers has trees too close together and ivy growing at the base of the tree climbing upward. This vine will eventually kill even Eucalyptus trees.

dangerously overgrown with vegetation. An important part of this fire strategy is to begin a controlled burn in the late winter, when the vegetation is not too dry and fire control is safest. Indigenous people, as they start cultural burns are interested in encouraging certain vegetation that will provide food for game or will provide the regeneration of the sour berry, which is a vine useful in making baskets. These baskets are very important to the indigenous people's culture. The question is, how possible will cultural burning be without the forest having been managed properly for so many decades? 2

THE STATE OF OUR LOCAL FORESTS

San Francisco's forests at the Presidio, Mount Davidson, San Bruno Mountain and Sutro Towers are in need of serious maintenance. When the understory contains too much litter or trees are too close together, mechanical removal of the vegetation can be the only solution. This is both time consuming and very expensive, however, this needs to be done soon before our next big earthquake and catastrophic fire. When Eucalyptus trees die and catch on fire, the embers can travel over 3-1/2 miles and can ignite other parts of our City.

Footnote:

1. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-20455-y>
2. <https://www.npr.org/2020/08/24/899422710/to-manage-wildfire-california-looks-to-what-tribes-have-known-all-along>

Glenn Rogers, RLA, CSFN Newsletter Editor
Landscape Architect, License 3223

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

IT'S GALA TIME!!!



This month starts with October Fest and ends with Halloween, so what better time to start thinking about our own holiday un-dinner! You don't have to worry about hiring a baby sitter, planning your wardrobe, surfing menu choices, parking problems and other hassles including slow check in lines, long droning speeches and interminable raffle ticket sales! Instead your contribution will provide your entry into a comedy club cabaret! You will have a happy hour at

home with the beverage and snacks you know you will enjoy while being entertained by the stand up routines of the experienced Sunset Heights Players! You fund CSFN while having fun for just \$45 for one invitation to the cabaret, or \$150 for a sponsorship (two invitations), \$500 for a half table (5 invitations), or \$ 1000 for a full table (10 invitations). Stay tuned for further information about the date and time!

Charles Head, President of CSFN



PROPOSED AGENDA FOR CSFN, General Assembly ON OCT. 19, 2021

Sign in and answer poll questions. Short Announcements.

- I. Call to order: Approve Agenda.
- II. Program: Director Eric Shaw, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
- III. Officers' Reports
 - A. President
 - B. Vice President
 - C. Secretaries
 - D. Treasurer
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive
 - B. Land Use and Transportation
 - C. Government and Elections
 - D. Bylaws
 - E. Open Space
- V. Approval of Draft Minutes of Sept. 21, 2021
- VI. Unfinished Business
 - A. CSFN Resolution on Signage
 - B. CSFN letter on tree canopy
- VII. New Business
 - A. Fun Un Gala to raise funds with a Comedy Night Cabaret featuring the seasoned S.H.A.R.P. stand up troop
- VIII. The Conversation Continues
- IX. Adjournment

Charles Head, President CSFN

CSFN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA



CSFN Resolution Regarding Sign Clutter

Whereas San Francisco, like many cities nationwide, has regulated storefront signs over sidewalks for decades to minimize blight created by excessive signage,

Whereas the work of city officials and activists to reduce sign clutter over five decades should be respected and maintained,

Whereas San Francisco city government is weakening sign regulations, allowing larger storefront signs, allowing more signs per business, allowing unlimited sales and lease signage on residential buildings, allowing large signs on historic buildings, and proposing legislation to allow more signage on awnings and marquees,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods opposes legislation that would allow more signs on awnings and marquees, supports the reversal of the section of city ordinance #179-18 that “streamlined” the process of adding signs to historic buildings, decries the installation of two 25-foot-high blade signs on the historic Rincon Annex building and supports their removal, opposes the addition of any new signage to the exterior of the Rincon Annex building, and opposes any current policy allowing the unlimited number of sales and lease signs on residential buildings.

September 2021



Wednesday, September 29, 2021 / 5:30 PM / By ZOOM

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

- 5:35 pm I **Call to Order/Quorum.**Met. ZOOM host Glenn Rogers
Agenda approved as amended with BART Canopy Resolution.
- 5:31 pm II **Officers Reports**
- A. President: Rules Committee has not outlawed behest payments, Budget and Finance is buying hotels from Hotel Key Fund, City parking lots are being recalculated for more fees for busiest times.
 - B. Vice President, NL on fire, pay attention to the Quick Reaction Force which is new item.
 - C. Recording Secretary: No report.
 - D. Corresponding Secretary: Signage Resolution emailed.
 - E. Treasurer: Provided report and suggested income with a Virtual Ungala with a cabaret comedy troupe..
- 5:45 pm III **Committee Reports**
- A. Executive Committee: guests can ask question at the end, SAVEMUNI to provide an article about affordable universal transportation.
 - B. Land Use and Transportation, absent
 - C. Government and Elections: absent
 - D. Bylaws, absent
 - E. Open Space, We will include PmAC BART Canopy Resolution in CSFN letterhead in NL.
- 5:53 pm IV **New Business**
- A. Next Program, Eric Shaw Director of Housing and Community Development.
 - B. Next article, Water.
- 5:57 pm V **Unfinished Business**
- A. The Conversation Continues...
 - 1. Money raising activities for CSFN, gifts for children.
 - B. Recruitment: Lotus Fong's group is not able to join CSFN.
- 6:59 pm VI **Adjourn**



October 6, 2021

RE: Appeal No. 21-078

Dear Supervisors and Concerned Public,

We are concerned about the removal of trees beside the BART entrance stations. I understand some of the trees requested for removal have been unnecessarily targeted only to make it easier for the removal of the trees of concern. This is the wrong attitude on the part of DPW. At a time when the Heat Island Effect is most understood, allowing more reflective heat into the atmosphere is irresponsible. Instead of DPW protecting the City, they are failing it. The fact some of these trees, adjacent to the demolition zone, are now being allowed to remain, is welcome news, thank you.

Because of the insensitivity of the original plan for tree removal, we ask those in CSFN would be grateful if the BART canopy entrance project was completely abandoned. Should it not be abandoned, we ask for the replacement of these trees be at a 4:1 ratio, along adjacent streets. This could make the area around Market Street whole again some time off in the future.

The excuse that trees can be used by the homeless to climb onto the BART canopies is ridiculous. You insult the intelligence of the public with ideas like this.

The idea of *Green Roofs*, once proposed at BART canopy locations, is an excellent idea. The *Green Roof* located at the Academy of Sciences, was planted with California Native Plants and has dramatically increasing the habitat value there. A maintenance program to sustain these *Green Roofs* is also needed. If these BART canopies are so necessary, why can't they provide a habitat equal or greater to the trees they are replacing?

Summary

It has taken many decades for the Sycamores on Market Street to develop and make this street a grand thoroughfare. As San Franciscans, we need to recognize this and preserve these trees when possible.

Sincerely, Charles Head, President CSFN



**CSFN Land Use and Transportation Committee Report:
CSFN Land Use and Transportation Town Hall Report
Town Hall: SB 35 and the State Density Bonus
Wednesday, October 6, 5:30 PM
SB35 and the State Density Bonus program**

Sponsored by CSFN Land Use Transportation Committee

Recording is posted here: <https://youtu.be/L8nmMtVJLfw>

Considering the highly technical aspects of these subjects, you should watch the tape and be on the lookout for news updates to share with your groups. Speakers:

Susan Candell, *Mayor of Lafayette CA* explained how the efforts to get the State Ballot Initiative for Constitutional Amendment is going and what supporters can do.

Kate Conner, *SF Planning Department* explained how SB35 and the State Density Bonus programs have shifted the options our neighborhood groups have in dealing with proposed projects. [Download flyer with details and links.](#)

In attendance: Kate Conner Sr Planner with SFPlanning Department, Susan Candell Mayor of Lafayette, Mari Eliza, Charles Head, Eileen Boken, Jean Barish, Tomasita Medal, Julie Testa V. Mayor of Pleasanton, Anastasia Yovanopoulos.

There are too many issues at the moment to write a report that gives each one justice so I am going to write a list of issues and add links for the report. If anyone has any questions let me know. Quite a few non-members have gotten involved in our issues lately. Some are attempting to reform groups and join.

If anyone has any particular projects not mentioned here please let us know. *Share this with your groups. A lot of people who have not been affected by the state bills will be highly surprised to see what is coming at them now, without notice and public involvement.*

1. SB35 and the State Density Bonus – Kate did an excellent job of filling in the details and attempting to answer our questions about how the state bills have changed our local planning department into an automatic approval system, with few legitimate options or arguments against the developer’s right to pretty much do whatever they want to do.

Some of us may remember when Supervisors Campos suggested a public advocate for the citizens. Please watch the recording and contact Kate if you if you have any more questions. She has offered to try to answer them.

2. Next week architect Tom Soper, working on an alternative design for the 2550 Irving Street project, will lead a conversation on how architects are dealing with the new

restrictions coming out of Sacramento. Details on that meeting are here: <https://csfn.net/wp/index.php/csfn-events/>

3. Susan Candell brought us an update of the Bill Brand Ballot Initiative - Stop the Sacramento Land Grab, details are here: <https://www.stopsacramento.org> They will need a lot of support to get this passed.

4. SB10 – There are a number of actions that may be effective in stopping SB10. A lawsuit has been filed claiming it is unconstitutional. We have heard from a number of people that SB 10 is not mandatory. Cities may choose to ignore it. Kate explains some of the many ways this bill may be used to destroy single family neighborhoods. CSFN may consider taking action by writing a letter to the Board of Supervisors urging the board to not adopt SB10 option to override voter ballot initiative decisions. If you watch the recording you can get Kate's response to how the current state bills along with SB8, SB9 and SB10 may effect all the SF neighborhoods.

5. Solar issues –The Committee will take up energy issues at the CPUC and discuss how net metering changes that threaten to wipe out the benefits of rooftop solar systems. More details on that along with letters and a very organized list of actions people can take are on this web site: Solarrights.org

6. Two local projects embody a lot of what is wrong with the state bills are: Irving Street letter request - *Eileen is working on a letter for SPEAK, and 2550 Pine Street Grubstake project – that sets a number of bad precedents. I wrote a letter on that one, not on behalf of CSFN.*

7. Housing Element 2022 Informational Hearing on Phase II October 14, at noon. Public comment and letters are encouraged.

9. Supervisors unanimously denied a project known as the tech hotel in the Tenderloin. What was different about this project that convinced them to deny it? See the article in 48 hills: <https://48hills.org/2021/10/in-a-sign-of-major-planning-changes-supes-reject-tenderloin-tech-dorms/>

10. Socketsite.com lists a number of new projects of concern.

And for some comic relief I suggested listening to this little ditty: <https://youtu.be/ppSsr1VEtZM>

Mari Eliza, Chair LUTC



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME OF MEMBER ORGANIZATION _____

Mailing Address _____ SF 941 _____ Email _____

CURRENT OFFICERS:

President	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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Secretary	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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Other Officer	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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CSFN DELEGATE:

Name	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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If your organization has alternate CSFN delegate(s):

Name	Address, City, ZIP	Email	Phone
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Name	Address (with ZIP)	Email	Phone
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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