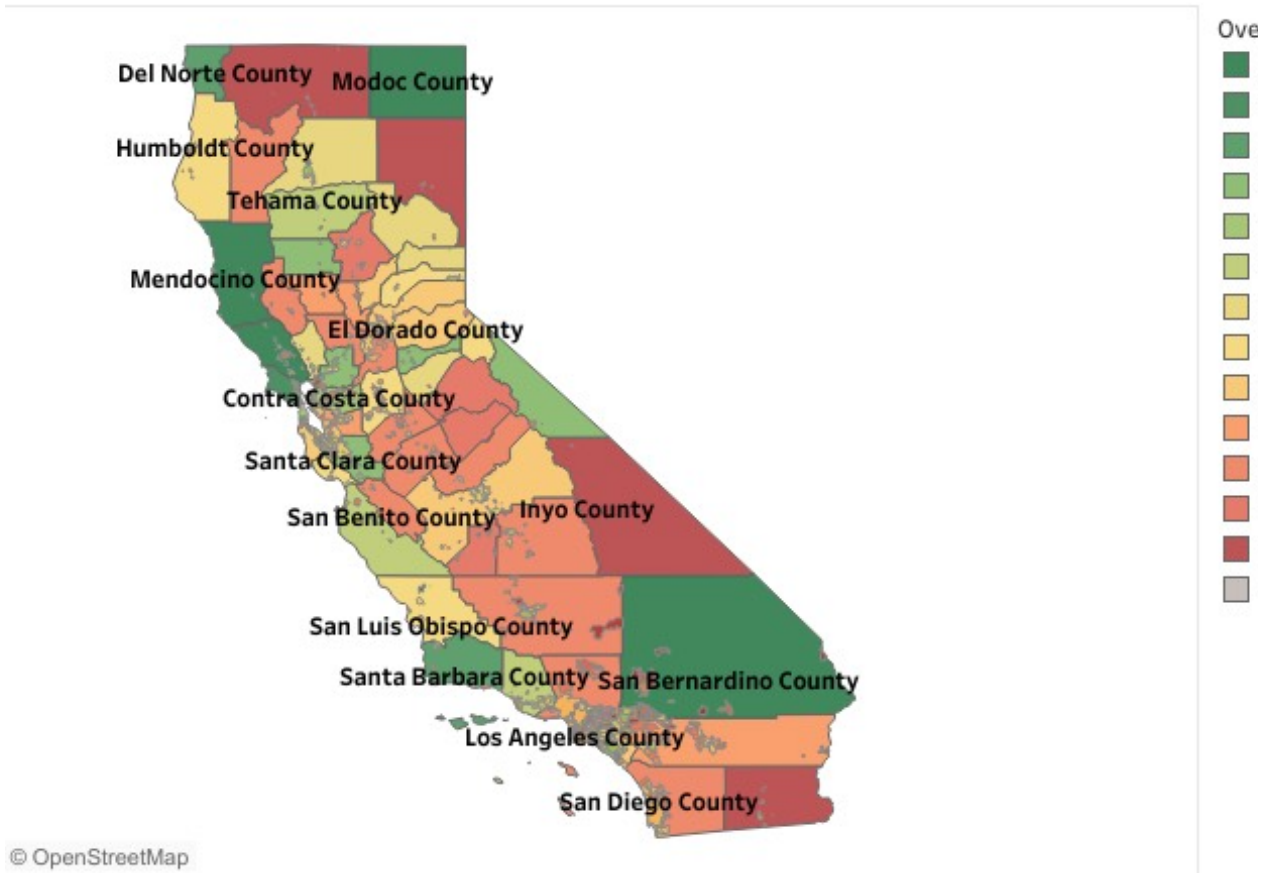


# CSFN NEWS

## DEMAND A HOUSING RECOUNT !



**What should San Francisco Authorities do about the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers and fulfillment demands from Sacramento? Should we demand a Housing Recount?**

*By Mari Eliza*

There are generally three options for citizens to take when they feel their will and interests are ignored by the civil servants who represent them. These actions are playing out in Washington now for the world to see but they are also on display in Sacramento.

One group embarked on an effort to convince the State Controller to examine the methodology of collecting data used to arrive at unbelievably high numbers.

**CITIZENS OPTIONS INCLUDE**

1. Vote for new representation – Take advantage of that opt and Vote Now!
2. Pass a public ballot initiative to overturn state laws.
3. File complaints and sue the responsible parties. A number of public and private entities are working on lawsuits now.

All three options are being employed in California by government officials and private citizens who are outraged over some of the actions the Sacramento politicians have taken. We will limit ourselves to one of the many issues in the state that is driving much of the anger and dismay, as reality unfolds in City Planning Departments and councils all over the state that the state has removed single family zoning and is demanding that cities build dense housing to meet a new set of impossible RHNA numbers or face lawsuits and or fines for failure to do so. A Little Background on how we got here:

A number of density bills were passed in 2022 with happy faced journalists bestowing honor and approval on the heads of the authors of the bills who claimed they were going to solve the homeless problem by eliminating California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for public notice (due process) and reviews.

Given the unpredictable CEQA court rulings around the state, some developers face an uphill battle that they want to quash. Sacramento politicians have been chipping away at CEQA for years, but, this year the bite they took was too big for many people to stomach.

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**The State is demanding that cities build dense housing to meet a new set of impossible RHNA numbers or face lawsuits and or fines for failure to do so.**

The fact CEQA was gutted during the Governor’s State of Emergency Order during lockdown, when people were arguing over masks and vaccines, not to mention street closures and who was to blame for the uptick in crime, makes it all the more difficult for the unsuspecting public to swallow.

Citizens and public entities filed lawsuits and considered other options to reverse the measures. A few weeks later the RHNA numbers were announced and local communities reeled from the realization that they were being railroaded into the impossible position of having to plan where to densify their communities. Some cities filed appeals to the numbers and demanded a recount based on independent studies that showed the RHNA numbers were flawed.

### NEWSOM GETS INVOLVED

Shortly after Newsom won his recall vote, he signed SB9 and SB10 and countless other land use bills into law. The press that had largely touted the density bills as a panacea to homelessness was suddenly faced with the new economic reality when the gas and food prices skyrocketed, Wall Street tanked, and workers decided not to return to the office. Urban life has lost its charm and the cities need a reboot. What to do with all that empty office space? [Newsom supports turning some empty offices into housing](#) and is backing his plan with money in his new budget. Who will turn down the cash? And more importantly, how will new housing units be counted by the RHNA overlords? Will they count the empty units, the converted commercial units, or any of the pipeline unbuilt units toward the goals they are imposing?

### QUESTION ABOUT RHNA NUMBERS AND OTHER PREDICTIONS

The press is pivoting now that we know about the [loss of population](#) in the state and exit from the cities to the suburbs. Even Heather Knight, writing a [Yes on A column](#) for the SF Chronicle, had to admit that SFMTA overemphasized big shiny overpriced capital projects like underground tunnels and BRTs, while letting the Muni system riders rely on fall into disrepair.

Single family housing is on the block and may be sold to the highest bidder to be up-zoned. At a [March 7 meeting](#) of the Land Use and Transportation Committee, Chair Melgar said, “Potentially we are rezoning half our city.” That is what Senator Wiener had in mind when he ended single family zoning in the state. But, some things have come up that are not playing out the way they thought they would. As of a few weeks ago only one homeowner had applied to split a lot and a few applied to add one extra unit in a formally single-family zone. Just because they can build more units on a lot doesn’t mean people will. Other actions taken by other cities to fight the RHNA numbers have been playing out in the courts and in the press.

The State Auditor’s report on the RHNA process released [a huge backlash](#) against RHNA:

[Letter to the governor from Michael S. Tilden, CPA, Acting California State Auditor](#)

Regional Housing Needs Assessments: The Department of Housing and Community Development Must Improve Its Processes to Ensure That Communities Can Adequately Plan for Housing...

Shortly after the bills were signed and the RHNA numbers were released a number of citizen's groups including the [California Alliance of Local Electeds](#) embarked on an effort to convince the State Controller to examine the methodology of collecting data used to arrive at unbelievably high numbers. Auditor findings on vacancy rates are consistent with [the Embarcadero Institute analysis](#).

**WHERE DOES THIS LEAVE SAN FRANCISCO?**

Given the latest headlines and the media's sudden interest in the density question, we may want to encourage our San Francisco leaders to consider joining one of the many lawsuits or at least writing some letters of request for a Housing recount, based on [San Francisco's new reality](#). [Commerce has moved from downtown](#) to the neighborhoods. Where people live, they now work and play. The shutdown and closed streets cut off travel between neighborhoods, forcing people to rediscover their own back yards. Given the huge fights over redistricting that probably caught some people by surprise it is evident that residents like their neighborhoods and want to keep them as they are now.

Change in this world is not the fun thing it was touted to be when tech was riding high and disruption was king. People want stability now and will move where they feel most comfortable and secure. City Hall needs to follow the lead of the people for a change. So what do we want to suggest?

**RELATED**

[Researchers find housing markets explain variation in homelessness among cities:](#)

One key dynamic of urban homelessness is laid bare in a new book by a pair of Seattle researchers.

When they compared major cities across the country, they found that homelessness was not strongly associated with high levels of poverty in a community. What it was very strongly correlated with was high levels of wealth...

**BY MARI ELIZA, CHAIR LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION**



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: IT'S COMMITTEE TIME!

June is the time for committee signups, but we're on Zoom: how do we do this? Well, where there's a will, there's a way! More about the how in a minute: here's the why!

1. Committees are open to all! You don't have to be a delegate, just a member of your neighborhood group in CSFN. And since our General Assembly is open to the public, our committee meetings are too! We have invited friends sinning in, and our Town Halls are open to all: just ask!

2. The work they do is the lifeblood of our Coalition. We monitor City Hall by overseeing the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor's Office and City Departments, attending Commission meetings and scrutinizing ballot measures and reports through Government and Elections! We tend to state and local laws involving our neighborhood concerns with Land Use and Transportation, keeping a strict eye on developers and commercial ideations. We are concerned with Environmental and Recreational areas in the Open Space committee. You can also join Bylaws, Media and select (temporary) ones as well!

3. Chairs are primus inter pares, first among equals. They are elected by their members, listen to their suggestions, and organize agendas along agreed upon lines. Meetings are focused, fun and well worth your participation.

So, consider your options: ponder your selection, ask members about them, and let me know of your preferences!

**Charles Head, President CSFN**



**AGENDA FOR CSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING ON ZOOM FOR  
TUESDAY JUNE 21, 2022**

SIGN IN AND ANSWER A FEW QUESTIONS

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED AGENDA

- I. Introduction of Dave Osgood, new at-large board member
  
  - II. Program: Carla Short, Interim DPW director and former head of DPW's Bureau Urban Forestry
  
  - III. Officer Reports
    - A. President
    - B. Vice President
    - C. Treasurer
    - D. Secretaries
  
  - IV. Committee Reports
    - A. Executive
    - B. Land Use and Transportation
    - C. Government and Elections
    - D. Others
  
  - V. Approval of Draft Minutes
  
  - VI. Unfinished Business
    - A. Redistricting
    - B. Rescue SF
  
  - VIII. New Business
    - A. Committee
    - B. Resolutions
- The Conversation Continues
- IX. Adjournment

**Charles Head, President CSFN**





**CSFN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022 / 5:30 PM / By ZOOM**

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

**Call to Order/Quorum.**Met? ZOOM host Glenn Rogers

5:30 pm

Meeting will come to order.

Agenda approved? Accepted as amended. Record!

**I Officers Reports**

- A. President: Pause for mass killings at Supervisor’s meeting
- B. Vice President, CIMA paid and we have Director’s Insurance
- C. Recording Secretary: No report
- D. Corresponding Secretary, see Unfinished Business
- E. Treasurer, all in order.

**II Committee Reports**

- A. Executive Committee , attended Library Commission
- B. Land Use and Transportation, meetings in July..
- C. Government and Elections, be sure to vote
- D. Bylaws, meeting soon.
- E. Open Space, see article in Open Space

**III Unfinished Business**

- A. Hybrid in person meetings, ZOOM meetings to continue.

**IV New Business**

- A. Next Program? Herrera unavailable, Carla Short to present
- B. Next article, RHNA.

**V For the Good of the Order, requesting no Chat that is impolite**

6:37 pm

**Adjourn**

6:38 pm

**Open Space**

**Call to Order**

Glenn Rogers, Dave Osgood and .George Wooding. Charles Head excused.

<https://westsideobserver.com/news/rogers.html#jun22-New-Oceanview-library-Wrong-Place>

**Glenn Rogers, Vice President CSFN**



## LandUse and Transportation Committee Report for June 3

*By Chair, Mari Eliza, EMIA*

Once again I apologize for not being able to schedule a regular LUTC meeting due to conflicting schedules with other meetings.

We held a Town Hall on Prop A, and the Closed Streets actions, that was not well attended due to equally important overlapping meetings, after I was encouraged to do so by people who did not show up. Thanks to those. What we have is a tape of [Eileen's expansion on the Muni bonds](#) for people who need to know more about the subject. Share with your friends and members of your organizations.

Since the meeting we have learned bit more about the plans City Hall has for our streets and they are not helpful. To sum this up:

I just posted this on nextdoor after reports on the Mayor's budget were posted that show a reduction in funds for her housing departments and Muni.

"VOTE NOW" Few people are expected to vote in the midst of a mind-boggling voting season, so your vote counts more than usual.

It only take 33% of voters who vote to stop Prop A so your vote really counts this time.

"Vote No on A" Even Heather Knight in her SF Chronicle "yes on A" column admitted that "It's an agency in which a couple of wildly over-budget projects, including the Van Ness Bus Rapid Transit lanes, consumed the agency's money, time and attention while the everyday infrastructure was left to deteriorate."

"Vote No on A" If you look at our voter's manual you will see that two firms paid for all the ballot arguments for Prop A including the Board of Supervisors. If you look up those two entities you will see who is running City Hall and why the streets are a mess.

"Vote No on A" If you look at the Mayor's budget you will see that she is reducing Housing and Muni funds and giving her employees a 10% raise.

"Vote No on A" to show City Hall to let our civil servants, who are the highest paid in the country, know that we expect more respect from them and we are not going to continue to feed their habits.



**Monday, June 13, 7 PM - What it is like to live in a BMR in San Francisco.** This month we are tackling a new subject in a Town Hall, committee meeting, with Supervisor Preston, Dave Osgood who lives in a mixed income building. Lea Curry who lives in a 100% BMR, and Mary Kate Bacalao who works with Compass Family Services to provide services to BMR residents. We could have invited a lot more speakers, but will invite the media and others to join us as guests and chime in with comments on other subjects they are aware of that need attention. If we need a second meeting for more speakers we will set that up later.. Details are on the next meeting are here: <https://csfn.net/wp/index.php/csfn-events/>

## **Mari Eliza, Chair Land Use and Transportation**



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