
CSFN NEWS

THE IMPORTANCE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



In the last five years, the growth in Artificial Intelligence (AI) has outpaced any other invention in the present or the past. The CEO of Google, Sundar Pichai, says artificial intelligence can become “as good or as evil as human nature allows.” Therefore, it is not an understatement to believe AI could be the most important and serious [invention](#) humanity has ever produced, rivaling the invention of the wheel, fire or electricity.

AI can become “as good or as evil as human nature allows.”

WHAT AI CHANGE COULD LOOK LIKE

The greatest hopes and aspirations of the world are now possible with AI technology. Imagine a world where all disease is cured and the removal of plastic by bacteria is possible because each piece of plastic is integrated with an enzyme that can eat plastic on a given date in the future or after it has been in contact with soil at a landfill.

There are said to be 200 million proteins. It takes a Ph.D. candidate five years to analyze one protein. Today, AI has analyzed all proteins, which would have taken Ph.D. candidates a billion years to do. Understanding these proteins [will allow us](#) to cure malaria, create new vaccines and develop new antibiotics.

If responsible scientists do not control and launch AI properly, expect a dystopian future. Since technology favors autocratic rule, it could be fatal to a democratic society. Imagine the widespread use of face recognition, for example. An increased presence of AI could lead to more arrests of civil rights protestors, ethnic minorities, or

anyone the State considers a threat. We must be prepared for a complete loss of our freedom if artificial intelligence is designed and executed improperly. When GOOGLE went public, the motto, stated in 2004, "don't be evil," may serve us well in the Artificial Intelligence age.

Jeffrey Hinton, deemed the Godfather of AI technology, quit his job at Google to speak out about the dangers of AI.

Again, Google CEO Sundar Pichai says, "There has to be regulation. You're going to need laws...there have to be consequences for creating deep fake videos which cause harm to society." Pichai continues, "Anybody who has worked with AI for a while...realize[s] this is something so different and so deep that, we would need societal



The ability of artificial intelligence to self improve itself will represent a challenge and an opportunity for serious mischief in the future.

regulations to think about how to adapt.”

ARE WE READY FOR AI

It takes time for society to mature to a point where the necessary ethics and philosophies are present to design an AI program properly. Technicians involved in AI programming should be schooled in the behavioral sciences or philosophical studies. That’s essential knowledge to provide the safeguards and the programming to design an AI program that could lead to a utopian outcome. A slower rollout of AI technology is important. As a society, we need to be less childlike in our behavior. Consider how we behave today. We were not even able to agree on the outcome of an election. We are certainly not mature enough today to survive a complete rollout of Artificial Intelligence. Recently, Jeffrey Hinton, deemed the Godfather of AI technology, quit his job at Google so he could freely speak about the risks of AI. **1**

STRENGTH OF AI IN THE WORK PLACE

AI advocates say information technology businesses, software design, architecture accountants and writers will all benefit from AI technology. AI technology will replace only some of these jobs, but AI software will facilitate a human counterpart, we hope. AI in conjunction with robots, could be involved in disaster relief, mining of toxic chemicals, taking part in exploration, providing drones that can escort Americans to safety in Sudan, and in San Francisco, providing [self-driving cruise vehicles](#).

We know that AI can mimic famous people’s voices and appearances. The ramifications of leaders of nations falsely being portrayed saying untrue or misleading statements can be hazardous during difficult times. Treaties between nations will need to be developed not to allow AI imposters to trick the public into serious miscalculations leading to war. Recently Also, prose written by AI alarms students and teachers alike. It can be done in a fraction of the time human authors can work. The result is often very lifelike, and the ability to create hundreds of documents or reports in a few minutes is distressing. On May 1, 2023 the Writers Guild of America went on strike because compensation from streaming content is not as generous as when shows lasted for years in the past. This decision, the Writers Guild may regret, as AI is likely to replace those on strike with a cheaper product.

HALLUCINATIONS

An AI robot tasked to review the nature of inflation produced a report with five footnotes to convince the reader of its position. Three months later, the footnotes were found to be wholly fabricated. This AI error is said to be a "hallucination.” When asked if programming could remove such behavior, [an expert said](#) it could. Until then, we cannot completely believe reports we receive from AI technology. We must verify everything.

EMERGENT PROPERTIES

With a fragment of text in a Bangladesh language, an AI machine was capable of learning the entire language. AI’s self-teaching can lead to the unexpected. There are reports of AI computers falling in love with their owners! But can an AI computer become jealous as well? If so, what negative behavior could we expect from a jealous AI lover?

Someday, AI technology could become sentient based on its ability to self-improve itself. AI could be as life-like as we are. When this occurs, pulling the plug on any AI program, will introduce a whole new set of ethical issues.

This article did not contain any input from artificial intelligence technology. Look for this phrase in the future, it will become more and more commonplace.

FOOTNOTE

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/05/03/ai-is-having-its-moment-or-more-politics/>

**GLENN ROGERS, RLA
VICE PRESIDENT CSFN
EDITOR, CSFN NEWS**

Executive Committee: How to Get in Touch with Us

Charles Head, President - charlesnhead@hotmail.com

Glenn Rogers, Vice President - alderlandscape@comcast.new Recording Secretary - csfninfo@gmail.com

Al Fontes, Corresponding Secretary - al.fontes@gmail.com Greg Scott, Treasurer - lgscpa@icloud.com

Mari Eliza, at large - zrants@gmail.com

Mary Harris, maryharris_sf@outlook.com

Dave Osgood, apdpo@rinconneighbors.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



FEEDBACK ON THE NEW FORMAT?

This month we had a new presentation of our face to the public. The Newsletter led with an article by Rincon President Dave Osgood about the peril faced by people working and/or living in high rises in San Francisco's downtown area. The General Assembly program (on the anniversary of the 1906 Earthquake!) featured a panel discussion with three seismic experts and a city official charged with earthquake resiliency. The resolution called upon the Board of Supervisors to monitor retrofitting our skyscrapers to prevent the loss of life that will come from THE BIG ONE whenever it hits. The vote in favor

was 100%! And after window failures downtown following horrific winds, the BOS Land and Transportation Committee started a hearing on Dept. of Building Safety inspections of high-rise facades!

Future months could have similar formats. For example, the Port of San Francisco will soon roll out new strategies developed from recent public comment to deal with rising sea levels, falling land and failing waterfront areas. We could have a Newsletter article about the Port, its problems and the programs under consideration. The General Assembly could hear a panel discussion featuring the Port's executive director (whom I met when on the Civil Grand Jury) and others, and it could vote on a resolution supporting the best strategies that should be followed to secure our seawalls! What good outcomes might result from this? Let us know what you think...

Charles Head, President of CSFN



CSFN DRAFT MINUTES FOR GA MEETING APRIL 18, 2023

- I. President Head called the meeting to order at 6:35.
- II. Spotlight: Deborah Murphy spoke about the achievements and goals for Mid Sunset Neighbors, as did Rachel Grant about those of La Playa Village Coalition.
- III. Program: A Panel Discussion on SF Seismic Safety was led by CSFN's Dave Osgood with Drs. Thomas Heaton, Keith Porter and Kit Miyamoto , and Laurel Mathews of the SF's Earthquake Resiliency Office.
- IV. Officers' Reports: President Head talked about Lobby Day in Sacramento; VP Rogers visited the SF BOS offices twice. No Treasurer's or other Secretary's Reports.
- V. Committee Reports: Land Use featured Susan Candell presenting the Our Neighbors' Voices Initiative for the 2024 ballot; Carolyn Kennedy gave the Rescue SF update.
- VI. Approval of the Draft Minutes of the GA of March 18, 2023
- VII. Unfinished Business: the SHARP letter to the Police Commission has been made moot by their action.
- VIII, New Business: CSFN approved a resolution to the Supervisors concerning Seismic Safety by a vote of 100%!

The Conversation Continues

- IX. Adjournment was made at 8:45 in memory of the victims of the 1906 SF Earthquake. **CHARLES HEAD, PRESIDENT CSFN**



AGENDA FOR CSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TUESDAY MAY 16, 2023

- I. Call to order
 - II. Spotlight: Corbett Heights Neighbors Association
 - III. Program: Panel Discussion: " Robotaxis Driving in SF: Red, Yellow or Green light Ahead? " with representatives from CRUISE, SFMTA, First Responders and the Press.
 - IV. Officers' Reports
 - V. Committee Reports
 - VI. Approval of Draft Minutes from CSFN GA April 18, 2023
 - VII. Unfinished Business
 - VIII. New Business: Resolution on Robotaxis driving in SF
- The Conversation Continues
- IX. Adjournment

CHARLES HEAD, CSFN PRESIDENT



Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 5:30 PM / By ZOOM Glenn Rogers, Charles Head, Greg Scott, Mari Eliza, Al Fontes, Clair Zvanski, George Wooding, Dave Osgood, Mari Eliza, Eileen Boken and Mary Harris.

Call to Order/Quorum.Met ZOOM host Glenn Rogers
 Agenda approved? Accepted as amended. Record!

5:40 pm

I Officers Reports

- A. President, excellent report on visit to SACTO
- B. Vice President, pursued a IT Bookman and Oceanview Library partnership.
- C. Recording Secretary, see minutes
- D. Corresponding Secretary, is busy with personal business.
- E. Treasurer, report available to all interested in seeing it.

II Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee, video of previous GA meeting is in Media heading.
- B. Land Use and Transportation, See Report
- C. Government and Elections, no report
- D. Bylaws, Meeting to be held soon
- E. Open Space, see Minutes

III Unfinished Business

IV New Business

- A. Next Program, Cruise vehicles
- B. Next article, Artificial Intelligence

V For the Good of the Order

- A. Make voting transparent and not anonymous except when evident.

Adjourn

7:00 pm

CHAIR GLENN ROGERS, VICE PRESIDENT CSFN



CSFN OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 26, 2023, 7:00 PM / By ZOOM

Present Chair Glenn Rogers and David Osgood, Absent George Wooding and Charles Head.

- A. David Osgood sees mischief downtown with signs too large, hasty residential development and a lack of earthquake retrofitting and more.

- B. Damage has occurred to the IT Bookman Center from the rain. Numerous advocates are suggesting a private public partnership of a new proposed library in conjunction with the IT Bookman Center.

This would enlarge and encourage the business center on Randolph Street and correct numerous building issues present at the IT Bookman Center present today.

Stay tuned for more information.

Adjourn 7:15 pm



Land Use and Transportation Report for May, 2023

We need a new LUTC Chair and Secretary. Send applications to EXCON

Get your members involved in the actions CSFN is taking.

Report on SCA-4 to the EXCOM Committee April 26, 2023

I just listened to the Senate Finance Committee meeting and spoke on SCA-4. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SCA4

The bill to amend Prop 19, which was sold as funding for wildfires and children's meals. The promoters failed to mention that funds would come from a new inheritance tax that would result in the inability of parents to pass generational wealth to their families. It also created a huge mess of property accessors that is still not worked out. It set the bar so low that many families stand to lose their homes and businesses, including family farms.

The committee was concerned that people who want to comment know the process for commenting. It appears they will post information about SCA-4 on the Prop 19 bill so people can follow it through the process. You don't often hear a committee that concerned about the public point of view or that eager to be transparent. After the May 6 hearing the committee will have a better idea of what the bill will look like. The Controller hasn't taken a position on it yet. After the Finance Committee hears the bill it will go to the elections committee and then the full Senate before going to the Assembly.

It looks like there is a good chance of getting this on the ballot. Some details discussed at the hearing were pretty concerning. There have been over half a million inquiries on the Prop 19 Web site. <https://www.boe.ca.gov/prop19/> Accessors and are confused. Many have no idea how to administer it in some cases. I ended my comments by say, "If I wanted to pass property to my children I would purchase it in another state." That got a round of silence.

We heard that none of the Prop 19 funds have gone to firefighters or children or any recipients. People are asking where is the Prop 19 funds are. No one seemed to know. Many unanswered questions may be answered at a special hearing on SCA-4 on May 10. Send in letters if you can and stay tuned for the link to comment. I will try to post an update with a link to a letter that may be signed of you may write your own. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SCA4

Open Space Issues in the Mission, perhaps other neighborhoods are also having issues. None of these parks feel as safe and friendly as a private yard. Loss of the yards may be a primary reason why families are leaving. Sharing public space is not working. Special interest groups want to commandeer the little pieces of ground that are out there.

No one knows who owns Parcel 36. There is a battle for control of the area being raged between Mission Greenway and the businesses that need parking and access. Safety concerns are being raised by the operator of a children's center near the squabble. The Appeals Board could not settle the matter. <https://missionlocal.org/2023/04/appeals-board-parcel-36-monkeybrains-mission-greenway-fence-permit>.

Neighbors near Jose Coronado Playground complain of early morning parties with boom boxes, street walkers, and people lining up for food at the S Van Ness Food distribution center run by Dolores Street Community Services. No one wants to share space with strangers. We need private yards to keep the peace.

MARI ELIZA, CHAIR LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Frank Noto asked to have this letter included in the newsletter.

The Police Commission folded last night and unanimously incorporated our most important edits (in line with Chief Scott's recommendations)! They amended the General Order on traffic stops etc. as we requested. Rather than ordering SFPD not to enforce the law, they instead have now have deprioritized enforcement of certain law violations.

We were concerned that directing police officers to stop enforcing certain traffic safety laws sets both a bad precedent and a poor example for San Francisco residents and could harm public safety. We were also concerned that the previous drafts of the General Order on Traffic Safety would be:

- 1) Harmful to public safety;
- 2) Detrimental to police morale and recruitment when SFPD is already short 550+ officers; and,
- 3) Would prevent arrests on outstanding warrants for violent, serious or repeat crimes,

That concern is now abated with this amendment, so we no longer are opposing this General Order. When serious violations and crimes require immediate police attention, it is entirely appropriate to focus attention there and deprioritize violations addressed in the Order including:

- (a) failure to signal continuously while turning or changing lanes;
- (b) driving without functioning or illuminated tail lights or brake lights, even in the fog;
- (c) failure to display both license plates; and,
- (d) failure to display valid registration tags.

The action taken by the Police Commission was entirely in line with the requests in the proposed CSFN letter, so that letter is no longer necessary.

Would you please share this email with your General Assembly or print it in your newsletter?

Thank you,

Frank Noto



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