



August 2023 Newsletter ([download from csfn.net](https://www.csfnet.net))

Tuesday, August 15, 6:30 PM General Assembly

Program - City Administrator Carmen Chu - Register for zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91012020000?pwd=ZlZkdUJ0dUwRSCpt9ry3X>

How can we save our Neighborhoods?



Photo shot from Carnelian Room circa 2004 by Zrants

[Our Neighborhood Voices got it done!](#)

Housing density rebellion begins across California

On the same early July day that California Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta issued a stern warning to cities and counties around the state about alleged misuse of local 'urgency' zoning rules designed to frustrate the increased housing density laws Bonta loves to push, the rebellion against those very laws formally began...

This happened when Bonta's own office received a new initiative designed to make local governments ? not the state ? supreme in setting housing policies and patterns... the new initiative states its purpose is to 'protect the ability of local communities to make land use planning and zoning decisions,' that 'one size does not fit all' and that 'local land use planning or zoning initiatives approved by voters shall not be nullified or superseded by state law.'

Announcements: see details on the [events page](#)

Monday, Aug. 7 at 11:30 am - *Opponents of this sweeping authorization will protest Robotaxis at McAllister and Van Ness before the 1-5 pm. CPUC status conference. Prior to their Thursday, Aug. 10 at 11 AM* where they will vote on expanding the program to 24/7 paid Robotaxis.

Tuesday, August 15, 1 PM SFMTA Board Meeting - [Geary Merchants](#): need help to stop the quickbuild.

Wednesday, August 26, 6:30 PM Board of Appeals - Hearing on 2550 and vicinity- PCE (Cancer causing carcinogen contaminated City block. Letters of support are encouraged.

From the President's Desk:



We have elections next year, but we have vacancies to fill available right now! Not just committee chairs, but officers too! We need a Second Vice President to help with administration, a Recording Secretary to deal with minutes, and an at-large Executive Committee member to perform duties assigned by it, all of which need to be filled to help us function better. Just apply to me as President to appoint you, and with Ex Comm approval you can serve until next time!

And here's another, different idea: if you're a CSFN member, apply to a SF Commission or Board to fill a vacancy in one of these, of which there are many. A reason to do this is to increase our access to and influence on city government... *(Ever wonder how the NRA got to be so powerful? As recounted in a recent volume, they had members of their Board sitting in seats in Congress!)*

Save the Date: December 6th Annual Celebration at the Flood Mansion.

Update on Rincon Annex Signs Hearing at Board of Appeals

By Dave Osgood



It wasn't expected, but Rincon Annex was the only appeal considered at the JULY 12 hearing, and it lasted 4 1/2 hours! And it's not done. The matter was continued to September 6 when the Planning Department is expected to explain what process they were following in issuing the permits.

Board of Supervisors President Peskin sat through the meeting in person for over three hours in order to speak during public comment. He said the Planning Department had erred in approving these sign permits. Obviously we've raised an issue of some importance.

Actually the meeting devolved into two related subject matters:

- The Rincon Annex building and the proposed signs.
- How the planning department processes permits involving historic buildings

Annex: This remains an uphill battle. Three board members are appointed by Breed. Two are appointed by supervisors, and one of them indicated he has considerable interest in Rincon Annex and was ready to deny the four permits. The other was absent, so we would have had to get the votes of all three Breed members to prevail.

Process: The process of preserving historic buildings in the city is a real hodgepodge of confusing ordinances that allows developers and planners to pick and choose how permits are issued. Numerous areas of the planning code apply with vague exceptions and subjective requirements. President Peskin stated this matter should've gone to the Historic Preservation Commission, but it appears that recent efforts to

streamline planning means that step is no longer considered mandatory. Despite pages of code, it was stated that there are no limits on the size and number of signs that could go on Rincon Annex. It remains unclear why other historic buildings, such as the old Federal Reserve, remain sign free. Concern was expressed about the precedent the Rincon permits would set.

I believe they were also to report why the matter didn't go to the Historic Preservation Commission. Briefs will be submitted by the parties on August 24. As the appellant, we obviously have a seat at the table. It was suggested that we get an attorney involved. City officials often make that recommendation to activists without seeming to appreciate the burden and cost involved. Mr. Peskin left after public comment, and officials said during the subsequent discussion that they didn't completely understand why he said the planning department had erred. It has been suggested that it is critical for Mr. Peskin to submit a document to the Board of Appeals.

Hopefully this could lead to some reform, and we should encourage that. Any thoughts people have on how we can best use this unique opportunity to encourage reform would be welcome.

“Marina Improvement and Remediation Project”

concerns Bay Area Mariners *By Dennis Minnick*



View from the Gashouse by Dennis Minnick

S.F Park and Recreation Department is planning significant changes to the San Francisco Marina, near the Marina Green. The project called “Marina Improvement and Remediation Project is in planning stages and will be working on planning and holding community meetings this year, The project will be done along with help and financing from PG&E and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB or Water Board). The project will include work to both the West and East Harbors.

Currently the East Harbor, also known as Gashouse Cove has been showing pollution coming from below the water, noticed by boat owners in past years. Part of the project would include moving the docks from the current location, near Fort Mason and across the street from the Marina Safeway, to an area in front of the Marina Green, between Fort Mason and the existing West Harbor.

One might ask what has prompted this work and why is PG&E involved. Seems that it goes back to the turn of the century when a “manufactured gas” plant was established around 1893. You can see the *gashouse* building on Buchanan Street, just adjacent to the Marina Safeway. Taking coal and oil they created gas that lit the gaslights of the city at the time. Older San Franciscans may remember the massive storage tank in that area, which was removed in the 1960’s. It seems that PG&E took over the operation around 1905. As you might imagine, environmental rules in the late 1800’s and into the early and mid 20th century weren’t too strict. There is a history of polluted soil and water and in the surrounding area, including the cove and under homes.

The S.F. Park and Recreation Department wants to take care of the clean up of the pollution in the area, both above and under the water and expanding-updating the park area and marina at the same time. In addition to the pollution, parts of the east harbor have become quite shallow in some areas and can only accommodate smaller boats with a shallow enough draft. The plan would be to move the harbor out of this area, allowing remediation and move it to an area in front of the Marina Green. One issue with moving the docks of the East Harbor to a space in front of the Marina Green would be that a new yacht harbor in that space would eliminate the unobstructed view to the north from the bay trail and Marina Green. Views including the Marina Green, the Golden Gate Bridge, Angel Island, and Alcatraz would be affected. This area is one of only a few spots along the waterfront where the general public have such view access.

Another issue with the proposed harbor move is what would happen to the fuel dock that is currently at the east side of the harbor, near Fort Mason. It seems that positioning the fuel tank necessary for a fuel dock in the new location would be difficult if not impossible at the proposed location.

Be sure to get on the Park Department [mailing list](#) to keep up the progress on this project. In researching this issue I found the [Latitude 38 magazine article](#) was very informative and had diagrams of the area.

Various web site with info and history of the area:

<https://www.mgpdata.com/gashouse-cove/>

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/san-francisco-marina-gashouse-cove-park-18126197.php>

<https://sfrecpark.org/1160/Marina-Improvement-and-Remediation-Proje>

https://www.pge.com/en_US/about-pge/environment/taking-responsibility/manufactured-gas-plants/north-beach.page

<https://www.latitude38.com/lectronic/san-francisco-marina-looking-at-expanding/>

Opposition is already growing: Keepthewaterfrontopen.com has an ongoing effort to educate the public about the many problems with this Marina plan and a petition to sign if you oppose it:

Rescue SF update *by Carolyn Kenady*



Tenting on 18th Street after a “home on wheels” was removed by znants

Thousands of unhoused individuals in San Francisco suffer from serious mental illness (SMI), drug addiction, or dual diagnosis. There’s proven community-based recovery programs in SF but not enough capacity.

And more people with SMI will need a placement. In October 2023, San Francisco County’s Department of Public Health will implement the state’s new CARE Court - designed to get those with SMI into treatment. More than 760 San Franciscans are estimated to be eligible for CARE Court.

CARE Court connects a person struggling with untreated mental illness – and often also substance use challenges – with a court-ordered Care Plan for up to 24 months.

Meanwhile, with rising overdose deaths, San Francisco is facing a drug crisis of historic proportions. Since 2020, over 2,000 San Franciscans have died. Yet our City has not increased treatment capacity to meet the demand.

We need more community-based treatment capacity for those with SMI, drug addiction, and dual diagnosis. We especially need more residential treatment programs with step-down community living. Those in recovery need community group settings – disconnected from the drug markets – where they can learn how to re-enter society.

RescueSF will be taking action this fall – demanding sufficient shelter to get people off the street and community-based treatment and recovery facilities for those addicted and/or mentally ill.

SF Land Use and Transportation:

2700 Sloat: My notes on comments at the Board of Appeals Hearing, July 26th : **2700 Sloat LLC Vs. Zoning Administrator.** Appeal on Letter of Determination written by the Zoning Administrator. The Zoning Administrator claims his determination is not aimed at a particular project. For the purposes of this hearing the ZA is interpreting the codes §102 and §270 as it is written to set guidelines and starting points for bulk limits on all properties. These limits may be lifted by other entities. **The Board of Appeals may not consider compliance with state laws.** Whatever path the project takes will determine how the public may address it later, but there will be time to address it later.

2550 Irving appeal: Wednesday, August 26, 6:30 PM at the Board of Appeals Hearing on 2550 and vicinity-PCE (Cancer causing carcinogen contaminated City block. Letters of support are encouraged. For information or to subscribe to the Mid Sunset Community newsletter, go to:
<http://midsunsetcommunity.org>

State Legislation and Actions:

There is still time to protest the Robotaxis on Thursday if you are so inclined.

[Does SF need 24/7 robot taxis \(that don't pay any fee to be taxis\)?](#)

Thursday, Aug. 10 at 11 AM CPUC will vote on whether or not to authorize the above proposal.

*Opponents may protest again at McAllister and Van Ness. **Monday, Aug. 7 at 11:30 am** – Opponents of this sweeping authorization will protest at McAllister and Van Ness. 1-5 pm. CPUC will hold a status conference on proposal to expand the Robotaxi service permitting unlimited numbers of autonomous Waymo and Cruise vehicles to operate 24/7 throughout San Francisco for paying customers.*

CSFN Meetings: [download August reports](#)

The public is always invited to our General Assemblies on the third Tuesday of each month, and you're always welcome to attend committee meetings and town halls of interest to you. In addition to the members of our organizations we have many Friends of CSFN that contribute! We are transparent and cast a wide net to attract all those interested in improving San Francisco and all of its neighborhoods. Join us, help us and see us all prosper! United we stand divided we fall!

Web site: CSFN.net Email: csfninfo@gmail.com

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