

President's Message:

West Portal Avenue Traffic Solution



I have been honored by being nominated as your new President of CSFN. I would like to mention that I am also a landscape architect as well as your president. Therefore, I will, from time to time, dwell on subjects that would appear out of the scope of a President of CSFN. Today's President's Message is such a time.

NO PROJECT Recently, a 78 year old woman ran into a bus stop killing all four members of a family in this tragic accident. This location on Ulloa Street, beside the West Portal Avenue Tunnel, is not recognized as an area where serious injuries have occurred. Despite this and for the fact this is a campaign year, overly ambitious proposals have been presented by the SFMTA to "save" the public.

Of course, the Bicycle Coalition's Interim Executive Director, Christopher White, recommends all traffic be removed, however, this is what they recommend for every road, everywhere. Probably the best way to handle this problem would be to have the State be more aggressive in deterring drivers' competence. The President of the Merchant's Association blamed the accident on driver error and not traffic design. Again, San Francisco Police do not believe traffic engineering was a factor in this accident. Therefore, my first recommendation for this intersection is **NO PROJECT**.

In contrast, Supervisor Melgar's response is found here: <https://westsideobserver.com/24/4-proposed-plan-for-west-portal-station-intersection.php>

BOLLARDS ONLY Realizing this accident is not likely to occur again and with a mind to keep the cost low, my second suggestion is to provide bollards only, to protect those waiting for a bus. This suggestion does not impact the businesses of West Portal Avenue either by denying them vehicular traffic.

DENY CROSS TRAFFIC THROUGH ULLOA STREET This solution is in keeping with the SFMTA's proposal that manipulating traffic is best for the public. However, in this solution I strongly disagree. If traffic engineering is insisted on being the solution, then it should be done with as little direction as possible. The solution below meets that criteria.

All traffic traveling east on West Portal Avenue can turn left or right only onto Ulloa Street. This represents no change in the existing traffic pattern. Those traveling west on Ulloa Street, can only turn left into West Portal Avenue. This solution blocks cross traffic from coming close to the bus stop. Traffic traveling east on Ulloa Street, can only turn right onto West Portal Avenue. This solution also denies cross traffic from traveling too fast and putting the public waiting for a bus in danger.

Glenn Rogers,
CSFN President

Candidates for Mayor Debates Ramp up



Peskin - aaron2024.com
Lurie - daniellurie.com
Farrell - markfarrell.com
Breed - londonformayor.com
Safai - ahshaformayor.com

Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 PM Sydney Goldstein Theater, Manny's and City Arts & Lectures host the very first mayoral debate ahead of the 2024 election. Join us for an opportunity to get to know 5 candidates – London Breed, Mark Farrell, Daniel Lurie, Aaron Peskin, and Ahsha Safai – as they present their policies, priorities, and practical solutions for our city's biggest issues.

The debate will be moderated by Heather Knight, The New York Times' San Francisco Bureau Chief, along with Manny Yekutieli of Manny's. If the cost of a ticket is prohibitive, please contact info@cityarts.net - **RSVP:** <https://www.cityarts.net/event/san-franciscos-next-mayor>

Monday July 8th, 7 PM Live forum in Gold Gate Park Monday July 8th, 7 PM

The Crimefighter award presentation to DA Brooke Jenkins begins at 6:30 PM

Hosts: Stop Crime Action, Stop Crime SF, Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, and ConnectedSF. Sunset Heights Association of Responsible People (SHARP) Golden Gate Heights Neighborhood Association (GGHNA), Midtown Neighborhood Association

RSVP for details: <https://form.jotform.com/241464744462055>

Recordings of Debates:

[San Francisco mayoral candidates gather for 1st public forum of campaign](#) - Harvey Milk Club

CSFN Meetings: The public is always invited to our General Assemblies on the third Tuesday of each month, and to attend committee meetings and town halls. 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.

Send articles and other materials you want to share to: csfninfo@gmail.com

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While lakes and rivers overflow SFPUC persists *by Glenn Rogers*



SFPUC: Designing for Drought For the second year, the SFPUC has canceled salmon fishing on the Tuolumne River and throughout California. That will cause hardship for thousands of local fishermen at Fishermen’s Wharf and indigenous people. On April 23, the SFPUC met to discuss water policy. In the audience were members of the Tuolumne River Trust, the Sierra Club, the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods, and a representative of the indigenous peoples.

DESIGN DROUGHT The SFPUC, which curtails the amount of water released into the Tuolumne River, designed the Design Drought plan — a plan that is so far-reaching that it projects a scenario — a drought that last happened 25,000 years ago. (Discovered by research into a Public Records Act.) It unnecessarily curtails water to fishermen while releasing water to farmers at 4 of every 5 gallons. (See the crops below for excessive water-consuming offenders). SFPUC’s plan for this scheme is similar to anticipating the snowfall in the Ice Age which lasted roughly 11,700 years ago. This plan is folly. Despite a surplus of water in our reservoirs sufficient to withstand a drought for four years, the SFPUC has imposed a drought surcharge on San Francisco ratepayers! The SFPUC is myopically planning for an increase in water use even though the demand in San Francisco has declined in the last three decades.”

MUIR WOODS IN CONTRAST Redwood Creek in Muir Woods has Chinook Salmon. It also has a program to encourage salmon to return every year. The number of people who visit Muir Woods is limited to control traffic, and the parking lot is not overcrowded. Refuse pickup is determined by limiting overflow of trash into the creek. Safe to say, all park activities are guided by the overarching principle of fostering salmon return. Wouldn’t it be ideal if the SFPUC had a similar principle for the the Tuolumne River?

WRONG CROPS IN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY Almonds, pistachios, walnuts, oranges and apricot trees are part of the problem of a list of crops growing in the San Joaquin Valley. These trees require year-round water; otherwise, they perish. Having the field go fallow is not a water-saving solution for these crops. Alfalfa is a crop for cattle that requires copious amounts of water. One walnut—not the whole tree —requires 5 gallons of water, for example. These crops should not be grown there because of their intense water use. The salmon, which also require water, should win this fight for resources, in the opinion of many Californians.

WHO ARE OUR SFPUC COMMISSIONERS? The SFPUC Commissioners are Tim Paulson, Anthony Rivera, Newsha Ajami, Kate Stacy, Dennis Herrera, Sophie Maxwell and Donna Hood. Commissioners Sophie Maxwell and Donna Hood are retiring. Both will be missed, since they voted most judiciously about the water needs for San Francisco and the Tuolumne River. Let’s hope the Mayor picks good stewards of the environment as replacement Commissioners... read the rest of the article here: <https://westsideobserver.com/24/5-despite-water-surplus-sfpuc-continues-designing-for-drought.php>

We can only hope the SFPUC will manage water use honestly.

Empty Units in San Francisco are the subject of much discussion as of late - LUTC REPORT

The numbers are unknown, but, the general feeling is that there are a lot of them. Tracking them is also under discussion, as there appears to be a lot of confusion over which, if any of the many city departments are keeping any count or attempting to. I asked one of my more knowledgeable friends what she knew about who does what and she came up with a few thoughts on the subject.

Vacant unit tracking: She isn't familiar with any efforts to try to do a point in time count of empty units.

Vacant affordable unit tracking: According to Planning Staff, the Rent Board, tracking affordable rent controlled units is up to the Rent Board.

Demolition of multi-unit projects: Checking properties planned for demolition to be sure they have not been occupied for the last ten years when the project sponsor claims they are vacant.

That demo came up at a recent meeting that was fairly dramatic and concerned the Commissioners. 1131-1132 Anza Street was considered empty and applied for a demolition permit. Two sets of tenants showed up to claim that both flats were occupied. One with a family with a high schooler and the other with several roommates! The project was continued. The Commissioner was perturbed! The following week a friend of the property owner came to apologize claiming his friend was ignorant and had no idea he was ignorant of the rules. This led one of the commissioners to ask about possible consequences for developers who lie. Nothing was resolved but there is a plan to conduct a hearing on the matter.

(Under SB 330 housing cannot be demolished if it has been occupied in the last five years unless the new units are available at the same income level of the tenants in that time. It is critical when the tenants may be below 80% AML.)

War on cars? Why San Francisco drivers say they feel under siege

By Ricardo Cano, Michael Barba May 18, 2024

Longtime San Francisco resident Nicky Trasvina is among those who feel the city is becoming less hospitable to drivers. Yuri Avila/The Chronicle

Driving in San Francisco has been changing, and Nicky Trasvina isn't among those celebrating.

Protected bike lanes. Less parking. Streets that favor pedestrians. Bans on right turns at many red lights.

"Now when you get in the car, it's giving a lot of seniors anxiety just to go on their errands," said Trasvina, 68, a longtime San Francisco resident who finds the city much more difficult to navigate. She added that all the changes are "scaring seniors into staying home."

It's not just seniors. Some drivers say San Francisco is at war with cars. They feel under siege in a city becoming less hospitable to vehicles amid efforts to make streets safer for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Who gets priority on the streets has long been a source of conflict in the nation's second densest major city, but the fights have only escalated over the past five years. Critics argue that the city, amid a lackluster economic recovery, can't afford to alienate office workers, shoppers and diners who prefer to drive.

Merchants in the Mission have [threatened to sue the city](#) over a contested bike lane, with one [launching a hunger strike](#). Business owners in the Sunset have argued that a long-delayed transit upgrade project has "destroyed" their livelihoods. Last year businesses across the city railed against a planned [expansion of parking meter hours](#) into the evening and on Sundays, fearing it would dissuade customers from driving to restaurants, shops and bars.

Many supporters of San Francisco's evolving streetscape, though, are unapologetic about a shift they say is long overdue... Read the rest of the article here: <https://csfn.net/wp/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/War-on-cars.pdf>

Reach Ricardo Cano: ricardo.cano@sfchronicle.com; Twitter: @ByRicardoCano, Reach Michael Barba: michael.barba@sfchronicle.com

DRAFT MINUTES FOR CSFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY May 16, 2024 - 6:40 PM Call to order

Rob Aiavao the Government Affairs Manager for Together SF Action spoke about a ballot measure that streamlines SF's commission system, making it easier for City Hall to respond to residents' concerns. This reform will hold elected officials accountable by making it clear who's responsible for fixing the city's biggest problems. Together SF is collecting signatures for the November election. They originally had a 2nd similar ballot measure which they won't continue with for this election. The 2nd measure would give more power to the mayor and their focus groups gave them negative feedback since we don't know who will be elected mayor in November.

San Francisco has too many commissions – groups of citizens appointed by the government to provide oversight for crucial city departments. We currently have a bloated bureaucracy with over 130 commissions and advisory bodies including 4 on housing. Other large California cities like San Diego and Los Angeles have about 50. This amendment would update the current system and create a time sensitive task force consisting of a city attorney, city administrator, city controller, a member of the board of supervisors and a delegate from the mayor's office. This task force will review all committees to see which should be eliminated or consolidated. They will reevaluate their findings every 10 years. There are 45 commissions protected either by state or federal law. The goal is to have 65 commissions.

These commissions currently have 1,200 members who have the power to drive policy. The police commission has passed policies that make it harder for police offices to be effective and have made negative comments that demoralize police officers. While the number of homeless commissions has increased so has the number of homeless. Many of the commissions are responsible for the hiring and firing of department heads with the approval of the mayor. These commissions like the MTA impose unpopular policies without any community outreach or feedback. No uniform process to remove commissioners.

Together SF cancelled the mayor debate when 3 candidates backed out.

Frank Noto - CSFN, Stop Crime Action and Connected SF are co-hosting a debate for the 5 mayor candidates on July 8. Any neighborhood association can be listed as a sponsor for a donation of \$15 – more is appreciated. Frank Sharp also spoke about SF crime rates dropping in the last 8 months by 27.7%. The primary reason is that the current district attorney is prosecuting more cases. Police morale was down when the previous district attorney chose not to prosecute some serious crimes. Now morale is up and there are more arrests. Another factor was the mayor pressuring the governor. We now have help from the CHP, National Guard, Sheriff and the Dept. of Justice on the Federal level. Another factor is public pressure on the police commission and judges. The Sheriff's Department is understaffed and have their own problems so we can't expect to continue receiving their help. The Police Academy class is the biggest in years. The city is working to install speed cameras and 400 license plate readers.

Barbara Heffernan talked about the Townhalls held in District 1,3,4 on Upzoning. The next Townhall is in District 7 on June 5 at the Scottish Rite Center 2850 19th Ave & Sloat. If you want to host this townhall in your district contact Neighborhood United at their website.

Officer Reports:

President's report – Charles Head had an extensive report in the May newsletter about his 4-year term titled Pre-Covid to the Present.

Vice President Glenn Rogers - Glenn visited City Hall to testify for the continued funding of the non-profit Sisterhood Gardens. He also testified at the SFPUC commission meeting about the rare mismanagement of Hetch Hetchy water. Glenn attended the interfaith council meeting regarding the development on the west side. He also wrote an article questioning the design drought that the SFPUC has been using for years. The water used from the Tuolumne River has been less and less despite the fact that we have 35% increase in population. He listened to the rules committee berate the management of housing projects for corruption, mismanagement, and lying.

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Al Fontes Corresponding Secretary has nothing new to report.

Mari Eliza Recording Secretary – 2 victories to report - RHNA numbers will be audited for 15 cities and SB9 declared unconstitutional by the District Court in Los Angeles. Our State Representatives are in favor of increasing our utility rates.

Treasurer Greg Scott absent no report.

Eileen Bokeen reported on May 9th the Coastal Commission had a significant issue determination on an appeal about the upper great highway pilot project which closes the upper great highway from Lincoln Way to Sloat from Friday at noon to Monday at 6:00am . The appeal was denied by the SF Board of Appeals and sent to the Coastal Commission that determined there were no significant issues. This pilot project will end in December 2025.

Glenn Rogers wants to speak to the Coastal Commission about not using rip wrap and opting for a solution that is more environmentally friendly. You must pre-register to speak at the meetings which take place starting June 12 and lasts for 3 days. You can attend in person or online.

Executive Committee Report – Glenn Rogers - Glenn wants more detailed minutes. Membership dues should be sent to Gregory Scott at 637 Noe Street SF CA 94114 instead of the post office box. He is requesting that the Bylaws Committee meet and review the bylaws amendments of 2019.

Government Elections – George Wooding - Quentin Kopp is collecting signatures for an initiative that starting in 2025 the Board of Supervisor Elections and all elected officials will be elected on the same day. All city voters will be eligible to vote in all supervisor elections. There is a proposal to reduce the number of business taxes from 14 to 7. The way it is written it will raise overall taxes for businesses. No state propositions discussed at this meeting.

Land Use – Mari Eliza - The Board of Supervisors are passing quite a few bills right now. How to handle the transportation issue? The merchants want to fire Tumlin or have him resign. Send ideas to Mari Eliza about ballot initiatives to change powers of the authority at SFMTA.

Open Space – Glenn Rogers - Glenn wrote an article about why the location of a library on Randall Street is safer than a library at 100 Orizaba Avenue.

The draft minutes were approved.

Old Business - Glenn asked about the ficus trees. Dave's appeal has been post-phoned to a future meeting.

New Business - The organizers of the June 5 Town Hall have requested a donation from us of \$500 to help with the \$2,500 rent for the Scottish Rite Center. The proposal was made and approved. Steve is a member of La Playa Village not park – the change will be made on our website.

Election President - Glenn Rogers, First Vice President - Charles Head, Second Vice President - Lee Ann Prifti, Corresponding Secretary - Mari Eliza, Recording Secretary - Deborah Murphy. Treasurer - Greg Scott. Members at Large - Mary Harris, Dave Osgood & Steve Ward. Since all positions are uncontested the vote will be by acclamation. There wasn't an objection so the election is over and all members on the slate are elected.

For the Good of the Order- Glenn thanks Mari Eliza for her work on the website. Doug Comstock offered to manage the website for \$28 per hour. This will be discussed at Exec Comm next week.
Meeting Adjourned 8:00pm