



## July 2024 News

CSFN.net / [csfninfo@gmail.com](mailto:csfninfo@gmail.com)

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CSFN GA July 16 6:30 PM - [zoom](#)

Guest Speaker Misha Steier will update us on the SF Public Bank

### Summer 2024 is the summer of Debates and Protests:

*Please send us news of your events as they come up if you want help promoting them.*

Watch the events page for details on events as they are brought to our attention. We will endeavor to keep you up-to-date with emails to alert you to the dates as they are listed.



### Free Speech and due process is under attack in

**California:** Many government decisions are not very popular with voters this year. One of the least anticipated and most difficult to stomach is the challenge to public notice and speech.

### The public voice is being silenced and ignored in

**Sacramento.** Options to appeal government decisions including this one are being curtailed. Most of the actions are coming out of the State legislature and many are being driven by San Francisco representatives. Why are they ignoring us?

### San Francisco has taken up some of the same policies.

Fortunately, our local media is on top of these shenanigans and is exposing them. Ethics Commissioners can hardly keep up with their workload investigating electioneering and backroom deals. Now city attorneys are faced with questionable contracts. Is it all about money? Or are there other issues regarding the purchase of power and influence at play that are more sinister?

**Neighborhood groups are organizing Town Halls to spread the word.** Controversial anti-CEQA and up-zoning and bills coming out of Sacramento are being adopted by the City Hall with very little public notice or input. Some have been successfully challenged in court, but, we know they will come back to bite us again. And we are left with a few options.

**Legal Actions:** We may remove the offensive legislators and replace them in November. We file legal complaints the laws. We may take our case to the media. We may amend or repeal the laws. Some efforts are being made to write a new constitutional amendment to reverse the laws.

**Protests:** July is education and protest month. Regardless of what we do we need to let the public know what we are dealing with and warn other states and cities about what they need to be aware of. Protests are being planned to do that.



**President Glenn Rogers Message:**

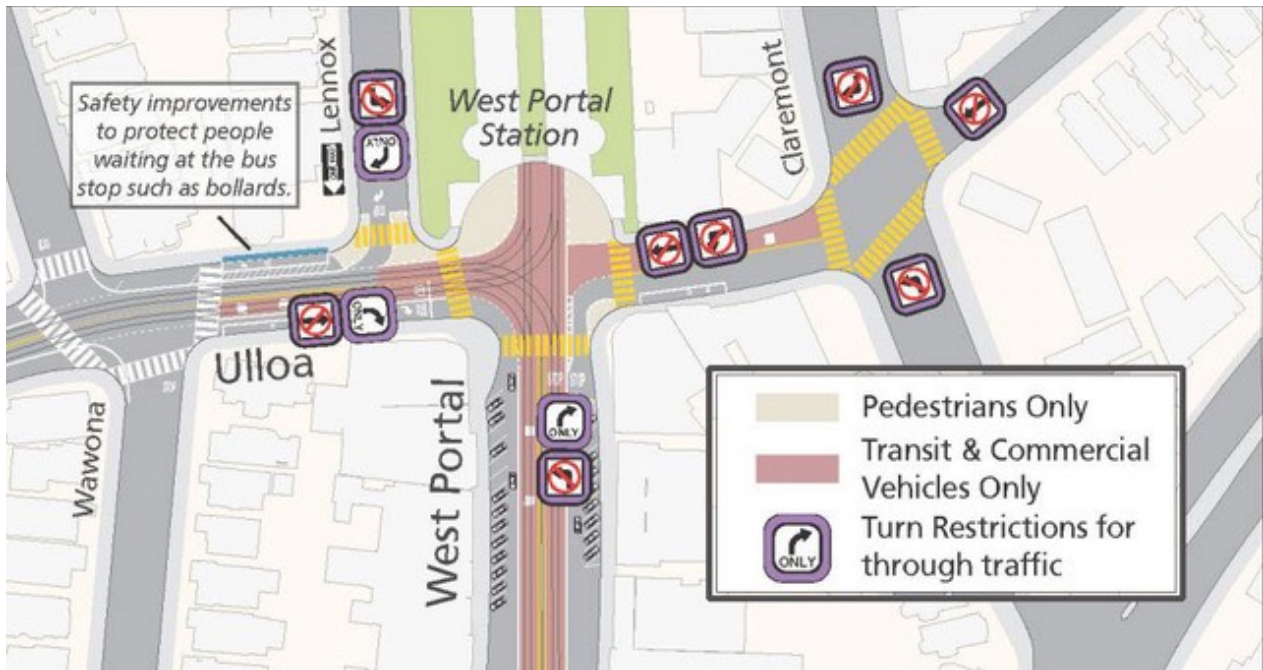
**West Portal Avenue Traffic Solution- The Final Design:** In my last President’s Message I recommended solutions to the tragic accident that occurred at the West Portal Avenue business district. In keeping with that theme, I would like to describe how the SFMTA eventually handled the traffic solution there.

**NO PROJECT:** First of all, they did not accept the NO PROJECT solution, despite the fact this area had few accidents and the traffic design error was not considered to be the reason for this accident.

**BOLLARDS:** They added bollards to protect the public waiting at the Bus Stop. This will provide an inexpensive solution to save commuters from danger. This is a wonderful addition and I praise the SFMTA for it. This was added after my email pointing out this omission.

**TRAFFIC DESIGN:**

In their traffic design, they reduced approximately 50% of the business traffic entering this district easily. They did this by creating a One Way direction on Ulloa Street leading away from West Portal Avenue, leaving half the business district being denied access into this district from West Portal Avenue. They also denied a U Turn on West Portal Avenue to circle back and find a place to park when no parking is available on the other side of the street. However, they did allow a Right Turn onto West Portal Avenue from Ulloa Street into the business district. Therefore, half the residential community from the west part of the neighborhood is allowed easy access to the business district. However, in denying easy access to the business district from the east, the SFMTA is providing a traffic design that is at the expensive of the business community again. I thank the SFMTA for adding the missing graphic of the Right Turn allowing access into West Portal Avenue, that I pointed out to them was missing, which was defended by the supervisor’s office as being intuitively understood.



## CSFN Business:

### General Assembly Agenda for July 2024:

- I. Call to order
- ii. Spotlight: Guest
- iii. Program: SF Public Bank Misha Steier
- IV Adoption of Draft Minutes June -
- V. Officers Reports
  - A. President
  - B. Vice President
  - C. Secretary
  - D. Treasurer
  - E. Liaison
- VI. Committees
  - A. Ex Com
  - B. Bylaws
  - C. Land Use
  - D. Government
  - E. Open Space
- VI. Unfinished Business: Bylaws Amendments?
- Vii. New Business: Resolution on Great Highway?  
For the good of the Order
- VII. Adjournment

**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](mailto:csfninfo@gmail.com)

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**Big Changes coming  
Stay tuned for Protests:**

Watch the [events page](#).



## Senator Wiener and Mayor London Breed claim fixed up CEQA to speed up permitting.

- Mari Eliza, Land Use and Transportation Chair.

Beth LaBerge at KQED reported: *After Missing Housing Goals, SF Has Permit Process Slashed Under New State Law. Sen. Scott Wiener claimed, San Francisco's permit approval process for new housing, once the longest in California, could become one of the shortest, thanks to a new state law. Under SB 423, authored by Sen. Wiener, cities that fail to meet state housing goals must expedite permits for projects that comply with existing planning standards.* <https://www.kqed.org/news/11992758/after-missing-housing-goals-sf-has-permit-process-slashed-under-new-state-law>

**Is Wiener referring to entitlements as permits?** Entitlements are handled by the Planning Department. Permits are handled by the Building Department. As far as I know, CEQA only applies to entitlements, not building permits. *I asked George to clarify.*

## Few people realize how badly Scott Wiener has screwed over SF

- George Wooding, Government and Elections Committee

Wiener's new law: **SB423**, An act to amend Section 65913.4 of the Government Code, relating to land use. This used to be **SB35**, Approved by Governor Newsom on October 11, 2023. Filed with Secretary of State October 11, 2023.

**SB-423 Land use: streamlined housing approvals: multifamily housing developments.** Senate Bill 423 (SB 423 and Government Code section 65913.4), formerly known as SB 35, provides a streamlined and ministerial review path for projects in jurisdictions that are not meeting State housing goals (Regional Housing Need Allocation, or RHNA) at both lower income levels and market-rate income levels.

**With minutes to go, Wiener snuck this amendment into SB423: (A tactic known as Gut and Amend)**

(12) (A) "Reporting period" means either of the following:

- (i) The first half of the regional housing needs assessment cycle. (RHNA)
- (ii) The last half of the regional housing needs assessment cycle. (RHNA)

(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), "reporting period" means annually for the City and County of SF

**Every city in California is operating on a four year review cycle except San Francisco. We are on a one year cycle, Wiener knew that SF would fail.** We have no discretionary hearings, no CEQA [California Environmental Quality Act] lawsuits. "None of the politics at the Board of Supervisors," said state Sen. Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), the law's author. "You just get your damn permit. Period. *(He expects us to support him for another round of abuse ?)*

Last Friday, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) ruled that San Francisco was falling short of its goal to plan for building 82,000 new units of housing by 2031. Last year, the city authorized just over 3,000 units, according to the San Francisco Planning Department.

**Permit definition:** *a written warrant or license granted by one having authority.*

**Entitlement definition:** *a right to benefits specified especially by law or contract*

SF was already the slowest city to give out planning permits in CA. Everyone with common sense knew that SF could never meet the ridiculous number of units—82,000—by 2030 that RHNA allotted.

**This is the first version of "buyer's remedy." More planning atrocities to follow.** This whole planning process has been a collaboration between SB423 (Wiener) and RHNA to streamline and shorten SF's planning rights as a charter city. Even if they wanted this to happen, the Planning Department has been rendered vestigial as to planning permits in SF.



## **California Legislators Want to Ban ALL Natural Gas Appliances**

by Thomas Rubin

**CA Politicians Seek to “Work Around” Court Ruling to Impose Ban on ALL Natural Gas Appliances, after “The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year struck down the measure because it infringed on the federal government’s exclusive right to energy regulation. The activists have responded by pursuing a different approach to building decarbonization by opting for a tax rather than an outright ban, which they believe would survive court challenges.”**

**Here's what's being proposed under this mandate:**

**IMMEDIATELY:** All new homes and buildings will be prohibited from putting in any new natural gas appliances – not just stoves, but all appliances such as furnaces, ovens, water heaters, etc.

**2027-2035:** Existing homeowners will be given a deadline to pay for expensive home retrofits to remove ALL of their existing gas appliances – all stoves, ovens, water heaters, furnaces! The Bay Area got hit with a 2027 deadline; San Diego already announced 2033 is their target. **Every week a new region proposes a new deadline for costly retrofits!**

**What will the mandatory home retrofits cost you?** An average cost of \$30,000 or more per home! [Read Full Cost Estimate Here](#) See the powerpoint for more detailed information.

A campaign led by Reform California, Reform Local Government PAC, and a coalition of local taxpayer watchdog groups has been launched to BLOCK this costly and crazy proposal. The campaign to block these mandates includes alerting voters in target areas, recruiting and supporting candidates for office who oppose the retrofit mandates, threatening recalls against elected officials who support the mandates, and organizing ballot measure drives to stop any new mandates from taking effect. **Watch your city or county to see if they attempt to introduce a ban.**

**Is an electric heater an improvement over a gas heater and why did California kill the solar industry if they really wanted clean energy?** *It is possible to install a rooftop solar thermal system to any water heater tank to cut cost and energy use and no hookup to a grid is necessary.*

California electricity may be clean, but it is very expensive, and we import electricity from other states – so, while many of them are converting from fossil fuels, the transition is far from complete. There is a good chance the electricity needed to replace the natural gas in the home water heater will come from burning natural gas, a nuclear power plant, or some other even dirtier fossil fuel.

Maybe not forever, but certainly for a while. And how do power plants make electricity? Well, the first step is to heat water with natural gas. So who benefits from the mandate? Not the ratepayer, who is limited to a single energy choice that is becoming less reliable. Requires constant maintenance and repair, including costly under-grounding programs that raise the costs.

On the other hand a natural gas water heater relies on the heat energy from burning CH<sub>4</sub> (methane, which is the vast majority of natural gas) that is transferred by convection to the water as you need it in your home. The gas lines are already buried.

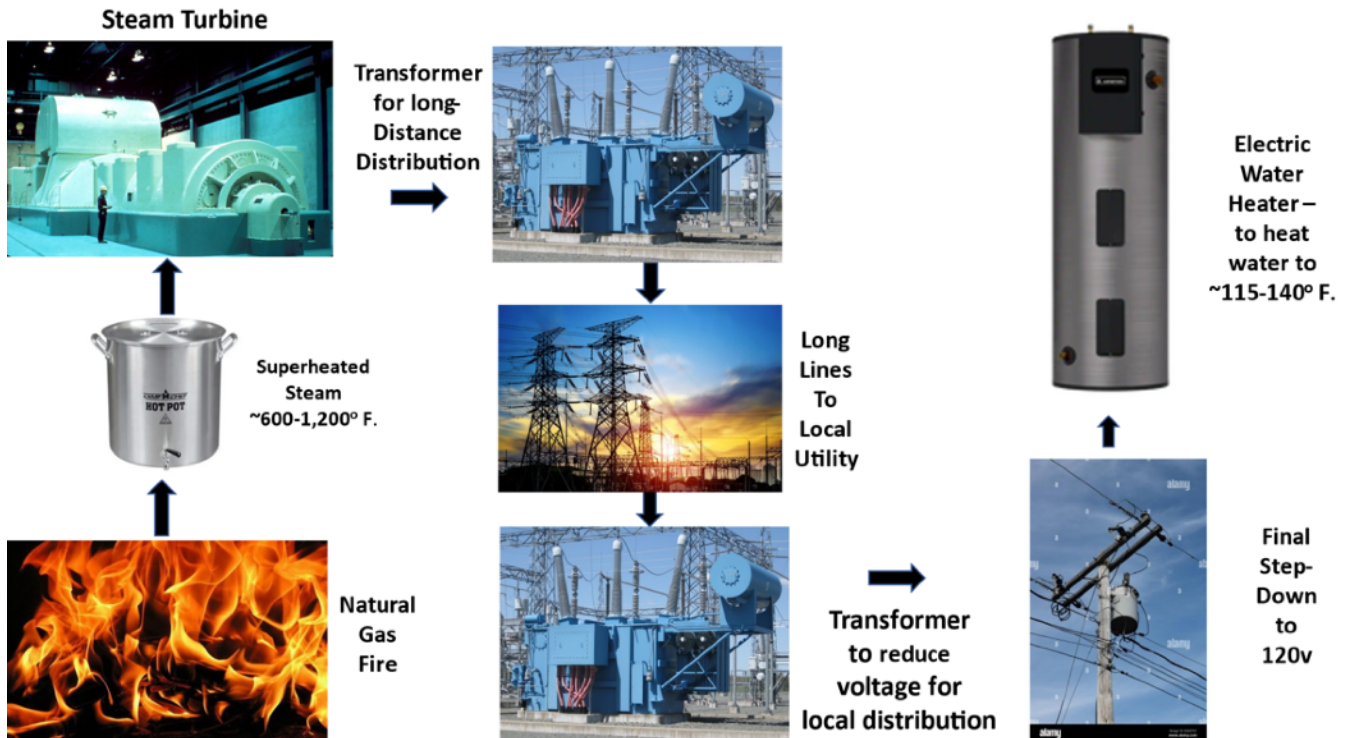
[Detailed Powerpoint attached](#) for those who want more information.

# Conventional Natural Gas Water Heater



Natural Gas Water Heater—  
Burn natural gas  
to heat water to  
~115-140° F.

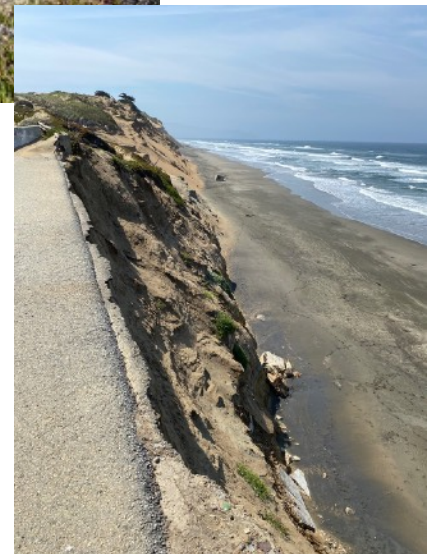
# Use Electricity to Heat Water in the Home





**OCEANSIDE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT:** With numerous parts of the Great Highway falling into the ocean, this part of the Great Highway being made into a park is assured. However, there is some misunderstanding about the collapse of the highway here. The collapse of the highway is not strictly from the erosion of the coastal bluff but also because of pipe beside the highway leaking and causing erosion. The best example of this is the picture immediately below. Also, there appears to be water coming from underneath the asphalt pavement as well, creating erosion and a void in the sand. Clearly, the erosion of the coastal bluff is not from sea level rise alone! All this is a great disappointment since the solution of repairing faulty pipe or subsurface drainage, is much easier to fix than the correction of *CLIMATE CHANGE*.

- Notes and Photos by Glenn Rogers



Notes and Photos by Glenn Rogers

6:40 Call to order

Frank Noto - Amber Lee from channel 2 is considering being a moderator for the upcoming mayor's debate. Amber may want channel 2 listed as a co-sponsor. All 5 candidates have accepted. Each candidate can bring 5 staff and has 5 minutes to speak with a 1 minute right of rebuttal.

Connie Chan the Richmond District Supervisor and Budget Committee Chair is our guest speaker. This year the mayor proposed a 15.88 billion budget of which the majority is for enterprise agencies – SFPUC & SFO. The remaining 6.8 billion dollars is for the general fund departments - police, sheriff, fire, public health. The Department of Public Health costs approximately 3 billion dollars.

The Board of Supervisors only evaluate city contracts when they generate more than 1 million in revenue or more than 10 million in expenditures or when the contract is more than 8 decades. There have been problems with both corruption and wasteful spending.

Regulatory review can pause contracts if problems are found. The reports must be read and acted upon and the city needs to do a better job. Sole source contracts are a problem – this means that a contractor is picked without any competitive bidding. Sole source contracts should only be used for an emergency repair which needs to be handled immediately.

Officer Reports:

President's report – Glenn Rogers attended the upzoning meeting on June 5. He wrote a letter to the Coastal Commission and plans to write an article for the Westside Observer. He wrote a statement for the Tualome River Trust. He also attended Aaron Peskin's birthday party.

Vice President – Charles Head worked with Frank Noto on the upcoming mayor's debate. He will work on the auction fundraiser in the next few weeks. He has also been monitoring the supervisor's meetings.

CSFN Secretary Deborah Murphy – no report

Treasurer Greg Scott absent no report.

Corresponding Secretary Mari Eliza – email her any events for the calendar or newsletter. She is still doing communications until someone else takes over. There will be a big announcement about a protest soon.



## Executive Committee Reports:

Government Elections – George Wooding’s report is in the newsletter. Only the school board bond has qualified for the ballot so far. More measures will be completed in July. A billionaire is supporting an organization trying to take over the ballot. There are about 15 state initiatives to review.

Bylaws – Mary Harris & Glenn Rogers – There was a meeting at Little Joe’s Pizza and the 2019 discussion about amendments will be included in the newsletter for review. Some minor changes proposed like electronic voting and people can hold 2 offices unless they are the president.

Ex Comm – Charles Head reviewed the bylaws about how ex comm operates. Set up program and agenda for next meeting.

Land Use & Transportation – Mari Eliza – Our work to protect the coastline isn’t working well. Sacramento is a problem. The bicycle coalition wants to turn Great Highway into a park and this will be voted on in November.

Open Space – Glenn Rogers went to the beach to see the shoreline next to the sewer plant.

State & Federal Liaison Report - Eileen Bokeen attended the June 4 Ocean Protection Council and on June 6 attended the Coastal Conservancy. On June 7 attended the State Lands Commission regarding the cost benefit analysis of sand mining in SF Bay.

The draft minutes were approved.

Old Business - none

New Business

Mari Eliza - Stephen Martin-Pinot brought an interesting report to us at the Town Hall this month. Re: Taraval and West Portal issues. He was in the tunnel when it broke down and there was no evacuation plan.

For the Good of the Order

Glenn wants all committee & Officer reports listed in the agenda including State Representative Eileen Bokeen.

Meeting Adjourned 8:05pm