



June 2025 News

CSFN.net / csfninfo@gmail.com

Download options : Print Newsletter and/or Online News

GUEST SPEAKER

SF Controller Greg Wagner - His office is responsible for overseeing the city budget and establishing the new position of San Francisco's Inspector General.



San Francisco voters passed Proposition C in November 2024 which creates the role of Inspector General within the Controller's Office. The Inspector General will lead investigations into fraud, waste, and abuse and make policy recommendations. Informed by best practices, the Inspector General will contribute to the effectiveness, accountability, and transparency of City government.

The Controller's Office intends to hire an Inspector General for the City and County of San Francisco in 2025. A survey was put out to ask the public for suggestions for what the new Inspector General should focus on. We anticipate hearing something about the results of the survey. We may also ask our own questions and make suggestions as to what we would like to see the office focus on. *You may send your questions to [Deborah Murphy](mailto:Deborah.Murphy@csfn.net) ahead of the meeting.*

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

CSFN President Deborah Murphy



I'm from the Mid-Sunset Neighborhood Association in District 4. I'm learned so much from the speakers at CSFN meetings and am proud to be the new president of CSFN. I encourage everyone to spread the word about our monthly guest speakers – this month we have Greg Wagner the Controller for the City and County of San Francisco. *Please email me any questions you would like to ask Greg.*

As the new president I look forward to meeting and learning from members of all the San Francisco neighborhood groups. Please email me at president@csfn.net and let me know when and where your neighborhood organization is meeting. I will attend as many meetings as my schedule allows.

Scott Wiener, Donald Trump, and Vladimir Putin Walk Into a Planning Commission...

by Mike Lewis of Encinitas



It sounds like the setup to a bad joke, but what do a progressive California state senator, a reality TV star turned president, and a Russian leader have in common? Surprisingly, they share an approach to reshaping territories that aren't directly theirs to control.

Trump contemplates acquiring Greenland, dismissing its sovereignty and people's wishes. Putin's territorial ambitions in Ukraine manifest through direct force. But Senator Scott Wiener's approach, while less overtly aggressive, will transform California communities just as profoundly through his sweeping rezoning takeover.

Centralized Planning for Abundance will destroy our culture by diminishing our links to the past,

Through bills like SB 9, SB 10, SB 423, and the upcoming proposed SB 79, Wiener has effectively centralized land-use decisions in Sacramento,

bypassing local planning commissions and community input. His vision prioritizes density over local character, transforming neighborhoods with what critics' call "stack and pack" housing—high-rise apartment blocks and multi-unit developments designed to maximize population density per square foot.

The Centralized Planning Problem

The consequences of this highly dense, concentrated living extend beyond just adding housing units. These policies actively reshape how Californians live, move, and interact. The urban lifestyle being engineered favors public transportation over personal vehicles, shared spaces over private yards, and smaller living quarters with communal amenities. This top-down approach to urban design mirrors the central planning failures seen throughout history, destroying existing communities in favor of standardized solutions.

Proponents argue this densification creates efficiency: more affordable housing, reduced carbon footprints, and vibrant walkable communities. Yet years into this experiment, housing affordability remains elusive. Average rents continue climbing despite the construction of high-density developments. The promised environmental benefits often fail to materialize when infrastructure can't support the increased population density, resulting in traffic congestion, strained utilities, and overwhelmed public services... [\(more\)](#)

Latest Estimate of Cost to Redesign Trail Above Ocean Beach Swells Fourfold

By Thomas K. Pendergast : richmondsunsetnews – excerpt



The cost of redesigning a multi-use trail next to the sewage treatment plant near Ocean Beach has increased almost four-fold from a 2018 estimate, now that the California Coastal Commission (CCC) has weighed in, forcing the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to revise its plans.

The intersection of Sloat Boulevard and the Great Highway, as well as the entrance to the San Francisco Zoo, will also be reconfigured.

This is part of the effort to keep the sewage treatment plant from falling into the ocean.

The 2018 estimate to contract engineers for designing plans which will replace the Great Highway extension road south of Sloat Boulevard with landscaping and a “multi-use trail” (because that stretch of road has been eaten away by erosion to the point that the ocean now threatens the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant) was set at about \$3.75 million.

In April of 2021, the contract for these engineering services was increased by \$2 million for a total of \$5.75 million.

After the CCC reviewed the City’s plan, however, the budget for redesigning that area swelled up to \$12.75 million.

Although this appears to be a drop in the bucket for a city with a budget of more than \$16 billion, nevertheless it appears to be a substantial increase for this particular project.

Nancy H. Crowley, the press secretary for the SFPUC, said amending the contract to increase the budget is necessary in order to address CCC-mandated design changes, increased design complexities related to interdepartmental shared scope elements, environmental services during construction (like inspections) and “an anticipated increase in the duration of construction of the project...”

Ocean Beach, but well below the beach level. It is also the most seaward component of that facility... [\(more\)](#)

We requested a sunshine report on the PUC Green Infrastructure Grants Program The answers to our questions lead us to some suggestions for cuts in the PUC budget.

In our opinion PUC Green Infrastructure Grants Program is one of perhaps many non-essential programs that should be cut to from the current rate calculations and the city budget. We need to find out a lot more about how inter-agency contracts are conducted and how departments and agencies grow if we are going to cut costs. Supervisors Fielder and Walton seem to be doing some of this work. They are starting with Parks Alliance and recreation and Parks. - Mari Eliza

GOVERNMENT

Questions about Parks Alliance are heavy on our minds now.



How can San Francisco authorities close the loopholes that allow this kinds of abuse of power and money? The glaring conflicts of interest that people have been complaining about for decades seem to be related to the enterprise departments that are supposed to be self-sufficient. What is the point in pretending that these departments are self-sufficient when they claim they are broke?

Is it reasonable to expect the Inspector General to be able to come up with the process that sheds light on the finances of these opaque departments and government agencies that have been tied to quasi government entities such as SF Parks Alliance?

San Francisco must protect vulnerable volunteer non-profit organizations from being ripped off or they will loose their trust and support.

[What did the director of Rec-Park know and when did he know it?](#)

[S.F. supervisor seeks to subpoena ex-leaders of collapsed parks nonprofit](#)

LAND USE



Lori Brooke was the guest speaker at our May 20 general assembly meeting. Lori is President of **Neighborhoods United SF**. She provided an update on the proposed extreme and unnecessary height and density increases that would gentrify the city. Few people believe that this will put a dent in the affordable housing shortage because of all the new bills that are coming out of Sacramento written to benefit developers and pushed through the state legislature by San Francisco's State Senator Scott Wiener.

Lori explained some of the details of the upzoning map that lays out the plan to replace many of the low-rise buildings that hold the essence of San Francisco neighborhood residences and businesses with high rises. Some efforts are being made to protect the historical properties that give San Francisco the flavor that draws visitors from around note world, or used to. So much of our cultural heritage has already been lost and more is on the chopping block.

The proposed zoning map signals a most alarming city-wide change in San Francisco that few people are aware of. It is ups to us to alert our neighborhoods to the plan and consider how we may fulfill our "obligation" to build more housing to meet the state's demands. Lori Brooke and Neighborhoods United SF are bringing informative programs to the neighborhoods. SF Planning staff is taking suggestions and comments. We anticipate a hearing on June 16 City Hall. Stay turned for details. NeighborhoodsUnitedSF.org

BUSINESS

[These S.F. Malls Are Experiencing a 'Renaissance' That Defies the Doom Loop. Here's Their Secret.](#) Quote from nextdoor that describes the sentiment of SF residents rather well and

backs up the article on the popularity of malls. **Common sentiment among SF Residents and business owners.** “The city is looking for revenue, which I understand. But they’re also spending \$\$ that we don’t have. They could save \$\$ by slowing down the SFMTA’s implementation of adding new bike lanes, adjusting traffic patterns and closing car lanes.

These cost lots of \$\$ and cause business closures as well. The plans for Geary Blvd, 19th Ave and Ocean Ave improvements will negatively impact so many businesses. Taraval has had a very hard time and will never recover the parking that was lost ...

West Portal is also feeling the pain, and traffic around there has never been worse since implementing all the limitations on where you can get on and get off the street. If we want revenue, we have to stop making it so hard for customers, be they city or tourist, to park in order to shop or relax.

Do we really want people to pay for parking to see buffalo, or sail miniature boats, or have soccer practice (which they already pay for). Do we really want to stop children’s weekend birthday parties altogether by forbidding car access to the park? Many of these plans may have been conceived when we were floating in tax revenue - that time has passed. We can cinch in our belts but be wise about it as well.

ARTICLES

[UCSF employees outraged over on-site parking being taken away... could the parking and driving into the city woes be responsible for so much turnover among health professionals? How many doctors have you had in the last couple of years?](#)

[State Supreme Court appears to back rooftop-solar owners in rates dispute](#)

[SB 607 Sparks Debate over Future of CEQA in California](#)

[Trump attacks on the environment aren’t new. But why are Democrats helping? - John Buse is senior counsel at the Center for Biological Diversity... \(more\)](#) One of things that makes this interesting is that the [Center for Center of Biological Diversity](#) brought the case on Solar Rates to the State Supreme Court. (See related articles)

[Letters: California’s net-metering change is killing rooftop solar. That’s why we sued to save it](#)

[One click letter link to oppose SB 79](#) - If you liked this one you’ll like the next one. These letters are having an effect in that fewer Sacramento politicians are ignoring their constituents when they receive a lot of negative comments on the bills. We expect a few more coming soon.

[Meet the politician who could make or break California’s housing efforts. What’s her plan?](#)

[Great Wall Hardware Begins to Rise From the Ashes After Arson Fire](#)

CSFN AGENDA

Tentative Assembly Agenda for June 17, 2025: [Zoom Registration](#)

- Call to Order
- Spotlight: Barbara Heffernan, CHA
- Program: Greg Wagner, SF Budget 2025 - Q & A - send questions for Greg to President Deborah Murphy president@csfn.net

Brief Recess

- Officers Reports; President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretaries
- Committee Reports: EXCOM, Bylaws, Government & Election, Land Use, Liaison
- Approve Minutes:
- Unfinished Business:
- New Business:
- For the Good of the Order

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: secretary@csfn.net

CSFN Officers were voted in at the May General Assembly for a two year term:

President Deborah Murphy president@csfn.net

First Vice President - Charles Head

Second Vice President - Steve Ward

Recording Secretary - Mari Eliza secretary@csfn.net

Corresponding Secretary - Dave Osgood

Treasurer - Gregory L. Scott treasurer@csfn.net

State and Federal Liaison - Eileen Boken

Officers at Large - Mary Harris, Tomasita Medal, Lee Ann Prifti

Website has regular updates on the media and news pages.

Please follow the site or subscribe for updates on news.

Media: [Subscribe to CSFN Video Channel on Youtube](#)

News: <https://csfn.net/news/>

Events: <https://csfn.net/news/>

OUR AFFILIATES

We encourage our members to attend some of the zoom meetings of the local activists where many of the details re: state and local political issues are discussed by people who dig a lot deeper into the facts than most of us have time for.

We align with these groups who do the research, write the letters and position papers, and engage directly with the political leaders. We can learn a lot from these specialists.

We encourage you to share these resources with your groups.

By attending some of the zoom meetings where the details of the issues are discussed you meet some people who are taking on specific tasks that lead to stopping the worst of the bills. It all starts with our neighborhood communities. That is where the power resides, as Engardio will soon learn.

The most important people are our neighbors so the more we can help them and encourage them to act the more likely we are to be effective leaders. Recently there have been a lot of petitions and 1-click letters flowing that give the public an easy way to voice their opinions. Thousands of these went out to oppose SB 79 and they appear to have convinced some state representatives to re-consider that bill. Hundreds of cities are opposing SB 79, including Los Angeles.

There are other meetings but these are the weekly standards. The groups are small enough for Q and A. You may mention that you are with CSFN. They know us.

Monday at 5 PM Catalysts goes over some of the current efforts to write letters etc to stop the state bills. They often have interesting informative speakers and share information that is helpful for activists <https://catalystsca.org/>

Wednesday at 6 PM Our Neighborhood Voices meets to discuss the state issues that are pending and how the state cases and initiatives are progressing.
<https://www.ourneighborhoodvoices.com/>

Thursday at 10 AM Neighbors United SF meets to discuss the efforts being made in SF and Sacramento to address the corners of our neighborhoods and some of the members dealing with historic properties and other specific local issues. Lori runs the meetings. Jean, Deborah, Renee, Barbara, Charles, George and I often attend.
<https://www.neighborhoodsunitedsf.org/>

Please send us your suggestions for other groups to consider as well as publications, and social media sites of interest. We shall add to our affiliates page: <https://csfn.net/affiliates/>



Neighborhoods
United SF

Our
Neighborhood
Voices