

Received at HPC Hearing 1/15/20  
D. Lewis

CURRENT		ENVIRONMENTAL	CITYWIDE
<div>Jeff Joslin Director of Current Planning</div> <div>Elizabeth Watty Deputy Director of Current Planning</div>		<div>Lisa Gibson Environmental Review Officer</div>	<div>AnMarie Rogers Director of Citywide Planning</div>
SURVEY & DESIGNATIONS	PRESERVATION ENTITLEMENTS	CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW	CULTURAL HERITAGE & PRESERVATION POLICY
<div>Marcelle Boudreaux Planner IV Survey—Landmark HRAs Team Leader</div> <div>Pilar LaValley Planner III</div> <div>Frances McMillen Planner III</div> <div>Susan Parks Planner III</div> <div>Elizabeth Munyan PI</div> <div>Melanie Bishop PI</div> <div>Renee Nickenig Planner II</div> <div>Vacant Survey FY19-20 Add Back \$</div> <div>Vacant Survey FY19-20 Add Back \$</div> <div>5 summer interns dedicated to survey work: Evaluative Framework Context and Theme Development (2) Architectural Context Statement Architectural Biographies</div>	<div> <u>North Quadrants</u>  <div>Elizabeth Gordon-Jonckheer Planner IV Northwest Team Team Leader</div> <div>Mills Act</div> <div>Shannon Ferguson Planner III</div> <div>Michelle Taylor Planner III</div> <div>Katie Wilborn Planner II</div> <div>Ali Kirby Planner III</div> <div>Jonathan Vimr Planner III</div> <div>Rebecca Salgado Planner II</div> </div> <div> <u>South Quadrants</u>  <div>Rich Sucre Planner IV Southeast Team Team Leader</div> <div>Incentives</div> <div>Stephanie Cisneros Planner III</div> <div>Alex Westhoff Planner III</div> <div>Monica Giacomucci Planner II</div> <div>Design Review</div> <div>Design Review Staff integrated into entitlements review processes</div> </div> <div> <u>PIC</u>  <div>Julian Banales PPlanner IV PIC Team Leader</div> <div>Michelle Langlie Planner III</div> <div>Additional Support from Environmental and Current Planning Preservation Staff</div> <div>Enforcement</div> <div>Kelly Wong Planner III</div> <div>Flex Team</div> <div>Natalia Kwiatkowska Planner III</div> </div>	<div>Allison Vanderslice Planner IV Cultural Resources Team Leader</div> <div>Jorgen Cleeman Planner III</div> <div>Justin Grieving Planner III</div> <div>Charles Enhill Planner II</div> <div>Maggie Smith Planner II</div>	<div>Claudia Flores Planner IV Equity Development Team Leader</div> <div>Nick Perry Planner IV City Design Group Team Leader</div> <div>Heritage Element</div> <div>Shelley Caltagirone Planner III Cultural Heritage Specialist</div> <div>Legacy Business Cultural Districts Heritage Element</div> <div> <u>Cultural Districts</u>  <div>Lisa Chen Senior Community Development Specialist ii</div> <div>Andrea Nelson Senior Community Development Specialist ii</div> <div>Aaron Yen Senior Community Development Specialist i</div> <div>Andre Torrey Senior Community Development Specialist i</div> </div> <div> <u>Legacy Business</u>  <div>Additional Support as needed from Current Planning Preservation Staff</div> </div>
Surveys ■ Designations Historic Resource Assessments	Permits to Alter ■ Certificates of Appropriateness ■ Mills Act Transfer of Development Rights ■ Incentives ■ CEQA Review	EIRs ■ Mitigation Monitoring CEQA Review ■ Section 106	Cultural Districts ■ Legacy Business Cultural Heritage Element



## CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

Jeff Joslin  
Director  
Current Planning

Elizabeth Watty  
Deputy Director  
Current Planning

Survey+Landmark	Northwest	Southeast	Northeast	Southwest	Flex Team	PIC	Design Review	Administrative
<p>Marcelle Boudreaux Planner IV <b>Survey/ Landmark</b> P Team Leader</p> <p>Pilar LaValley Survey/Designations Planner III P</p> <p>Frances McMillen Survey/Designations Planner III P</p> <p>Susan Parks Survey/Designations Planner III P</p> <p>Elizabeth Munyan Survey/HRA PI P</p> <p>Melanie Bishop Survey/HRA PI P</p> <p>Renee Nickenig Designation Team Planner II P</p> <p>PI Survey FY19-20 Add Back \$</p> <p>PI Survey FY19-20 Add Back \$</p>	<p>Elizabeth Gordon-Jonckheer PCS Planner IV <b>Northwest Team</b> P Team Leader rdat</p> <p>Shannon Ferguson Planner III P</p> <p>Michelle Taylor Planner III P</p> <p>Katie Wilborn Planner II P</p> <p>Christopher May Planner III</p> <p>Mary Woods Planner III</p> <p>Sylvia Jimenez Planner III</p> <p>Sharon Young Planner II</p> <p>Laura Ajello Planner II</p> <p>Matt Dito Planner II</p>	<p>Rich Sucre Planner IV <b>Southeast Team</b> P Team Leader</p> <p>Alex Westhoff Planner III P</p> <p>Monica Giacomucci Planner II P</p> <p>Mike Christensen Planner III Cannabis</p> <p>Kimberly Durandet Planner III</p> <p>Ella Samonsky Planner III</p> <p>Xinyu Liang Planner II</p> <p>Claire Feeney Planner II</p>	<p>Claudine Asbagh PCS Planner IV <b>Northeast Team</b> Team Leader</p> <p>Ali Kirby Planner III P</p> <p>Jonathan Vimr Planner III P</p> <p>Rebecca Salgado Planner II P</p> <p>Christy Alexander Planner III</p> <p>Nick Foster Planner III</p> <p>Andrew Perry Planner III</p> <p>Samantha Updegrave Planner III</p> <p>Carolyn Fahey Planner II</p>	<p>Delvin Washington PCS Planner IV <b>Southwest Team</b> Team Leader</p> <p>Stephanie Cisneros Planner III P</p> <p>Jeff Horn Planner III</p> <p>Linda Ajello Planner III</p> <p>Katy Campbell Planner II</p> <p>Bridget Hicks Planner II</p> <p>Gaby Pantoja Planner II</p>	<p>Vacant Planner IV <b>FLEX</b> Team Leader</p> <p>Natalia Kwiatkowska Planner III P</p> <p>Max Putra Planner IV</p> <p>David Weissglass Planner II</p> <p>Mathew Chandler Planner II</p> <p>Will Huguen Planner II</p>	<p>Julian Banales PCS Planner IV <b>PIC</b> Team Leader</p> <p>Michelle Langlie Planner III P</p> <p>Jeff Speirs Planner III</p> <p>Edgar Oropeza Planner III</p> <p>Moses Corrette Planner III</p> <p>Heidi Kline Planner III</p>	<p>Maia Small PCS Planner IV <b>Architect</b> UDAT Team Lead- er</p> <p>David Winslow TPV Planner IV <b>RDAT Architect</b></p> <p>Allison Albericci Planner III rdat Architect udat</p> <p>Luiz Barata Planner III rdat Architect udat</p> <p>Trent Greenan Planner III rdat Architect udat</p> <p>Oscar Hernandez- Gomez Planner II rdat Architect udat</p>	<p>Erica Russell Planner Tech Coordinator</p> <p>Lorabelle Cook Planner Tech</p> <p>Mary Jane Green Northern Teams</p> <p>Suzette Parinas Southern Teams</p> <p>William San</p> <p>Victoria Lewis</p>

**CURRENT PLANNING STAFF  
DEDICATED TO PRESERVATION WORK**



# PLANNING DEPARTMENT FY2020-2022 BUDGET & WORK PROGRAM

**Deborah Landis**

Deputy Director of Administration, January 15, 2020

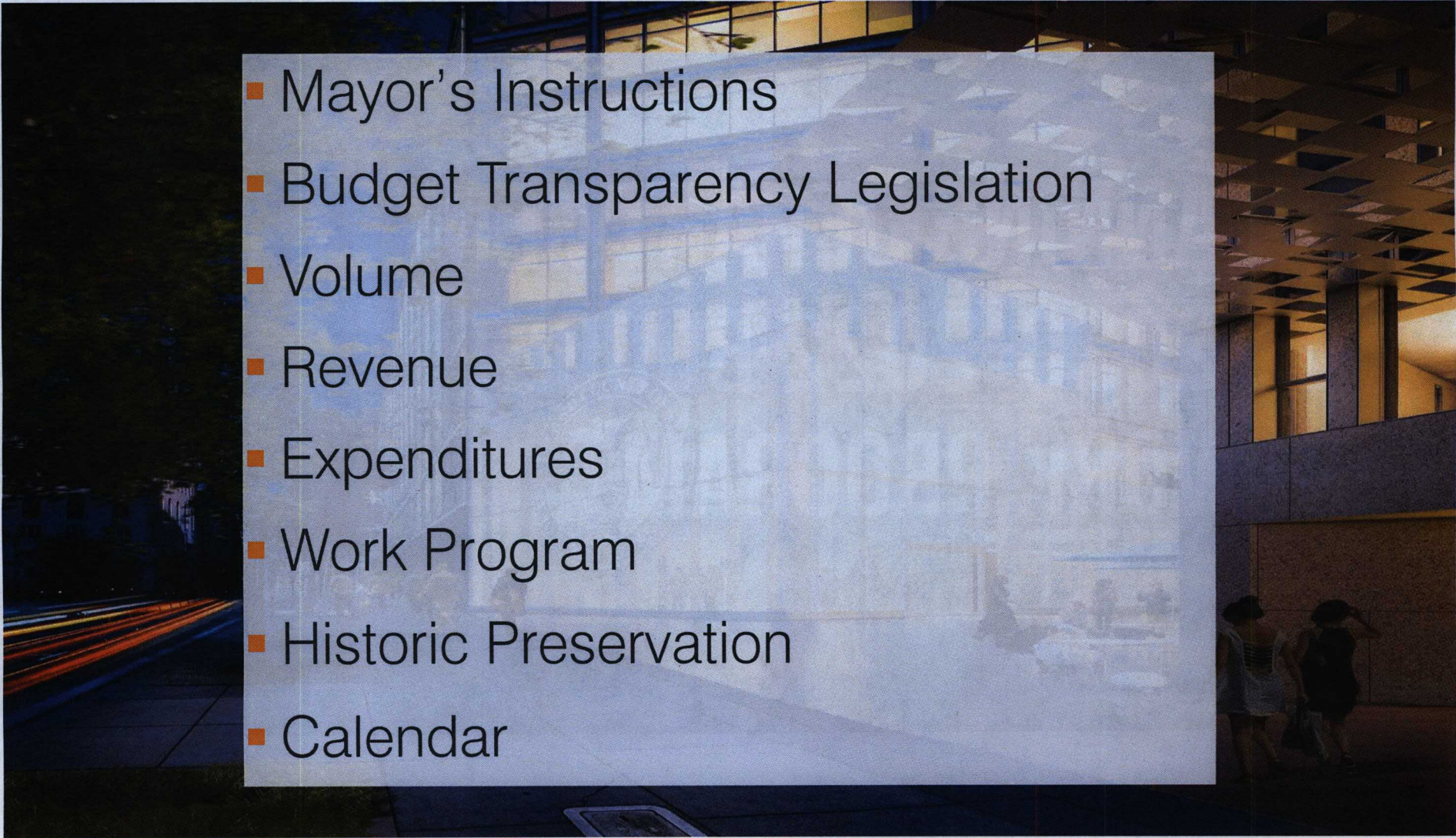


**San Francisco  
Planning**



Received at HPC Hearing 7/12/22  
D. Lopez

## FY20-22 Budget Overview

- 
- Mayor's Instructions
  - Budget Transparency Legislation
  - Volume
  - Revenue
  - Expenditures
  - Work Program
  - Historic Preservation
  - Calendar



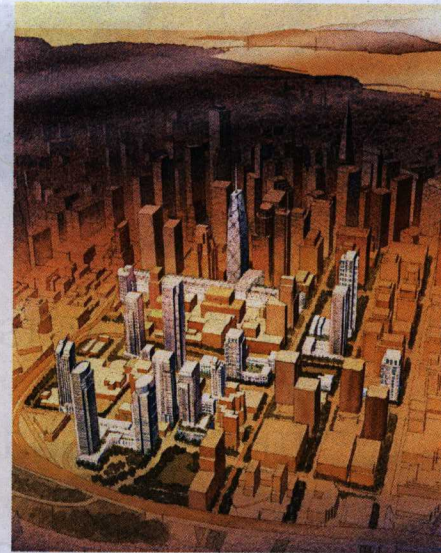
# Mayor's Office Budget Instructions



## Budgetary Focus

Prioritize housing, shelter, and services for those in need

Healthy and vibrant neighborhoods



## Financial Joint Report

Two-year deficit of (\$419.5M)

Slowing revenue growth

Rising employee costs



## No New Positions

Departments to submit any requests to Mayor's Office after Feb. 21



## General Fund Support Reduction

(3.5%) reduction in adjusted General Fund Support in each budget year

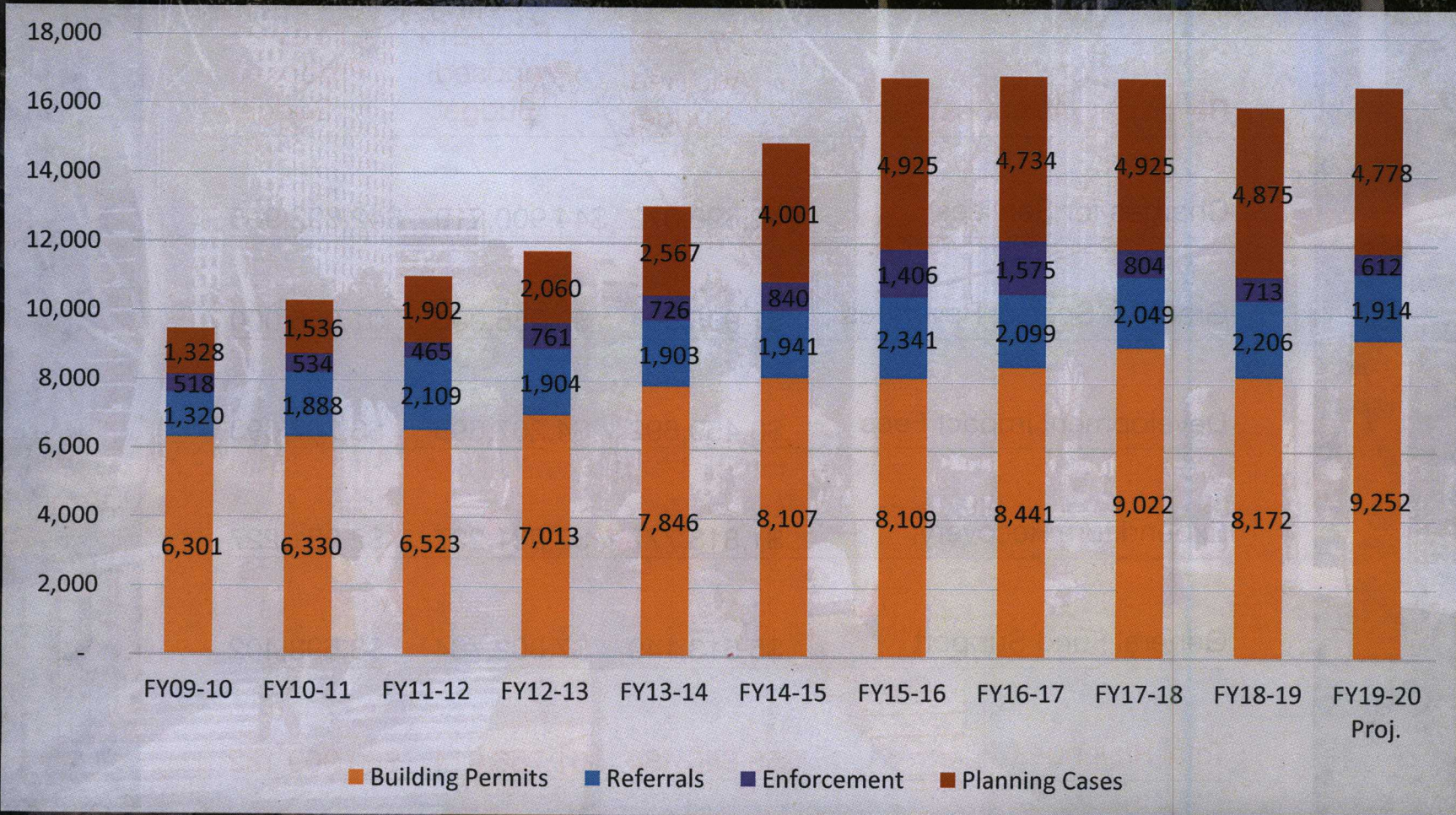


# Budget Transparency Legislation

- New requirements for Departments in the FY20-22 Budget Cycle
- Must hold one public meeting regarding budget before February 14<sup>th</sup>
- Allow public comment and collection of written feedback before, during, and after the meeting
  - Written feedback can be sent to [Deborah.Landis@sfgov.org](mailto:Deborah.Landis@sfgov.org)
- Controller will create and maintain a centralized website for relevant budget documents



# 10 Year Volume & Current Year Projection





## Revenue Budget **FY20-22**

Revenues (All Funds)	FY19-20 Adopted Budget	FY20-21 Proposed Budget	FY21-22 Proposed Budget
Charges for Services	\$42,890,072	\$44,900,210	\$42,892,945
Grants & Special Revenues	\$1,988,594	\$2,555,000	\$1,055,000
Development Impact Fees	\$3,459,892	\$4,267,693	\$3,767,693
Expenditure Recovery	\$1,813,777	\$2,231,227	\$2,231,227
General Fund Support	\$5,513,149	\$7,802,784	\$8,598,402
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$55,655,484</b>	<b>\$61,756,914</b>	<b>\$60,969,182</b>

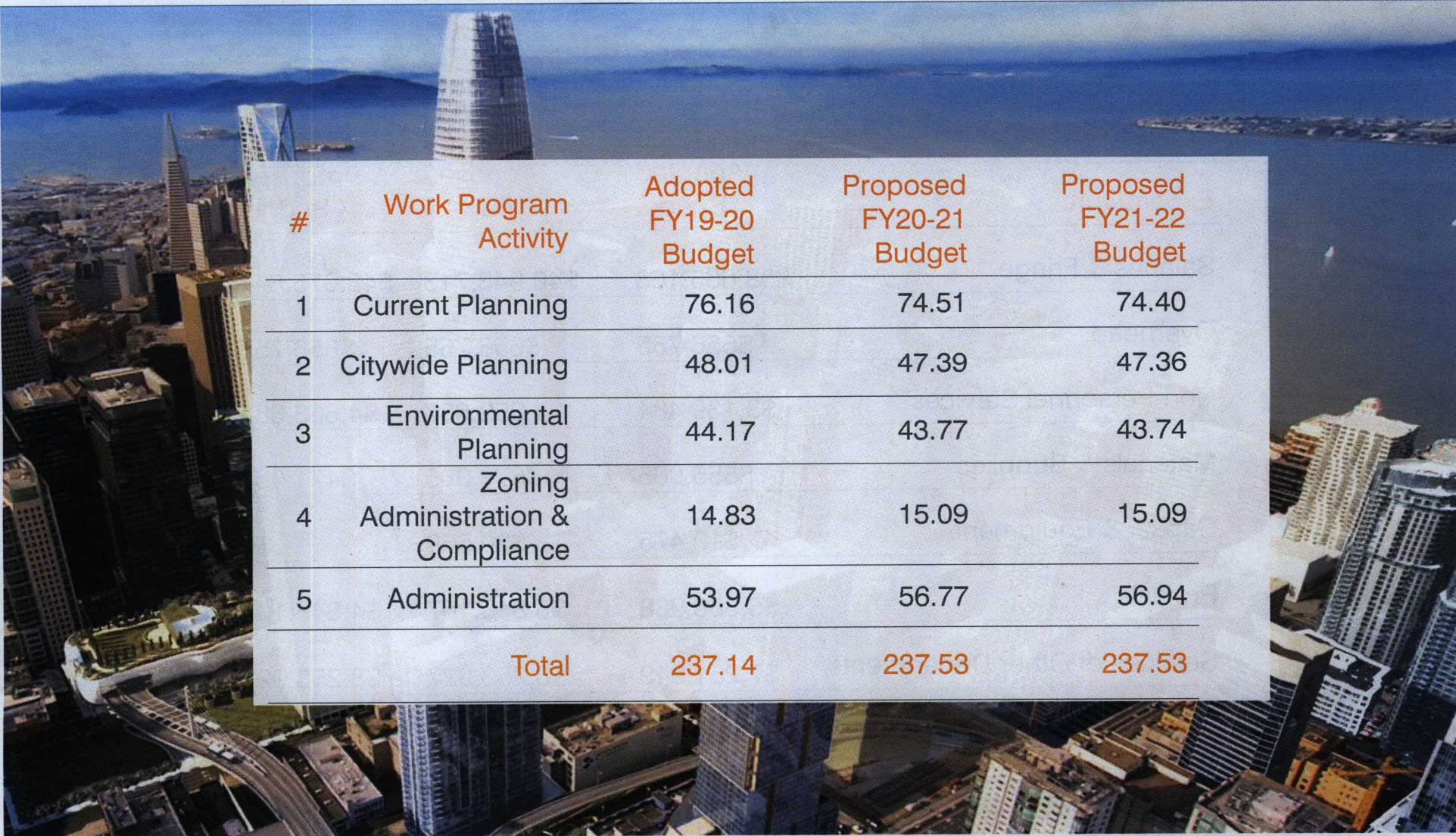


## Expenditure Budget FY20-22

Expenditures	FY19-20 Adopted Budget	FY20-21 Proposed Budget	FY21-22 Proposed Budget
Salaries & Fringe	\$38,655,168	\$40,943,713	\$42,075,641
Overhead	\$656,755	\$656,755	\$656,755
Non-Personnel Services	\$3,139,484	\$4,352,687	\$4,663,687
Materials & Supplies	\$555,065	\$671,065	\$471,065
Capital & Equipment	\$10,475	\$30,660	\$0
Projects	\$5,366,988	\$6,848,107	\$4,848,107
Services of Other Departments	\$7,281,549	\$8,253,927	\$8,253,927
Total Expenditures	\$55,665,484	\$61,756,914	\$60,969,182



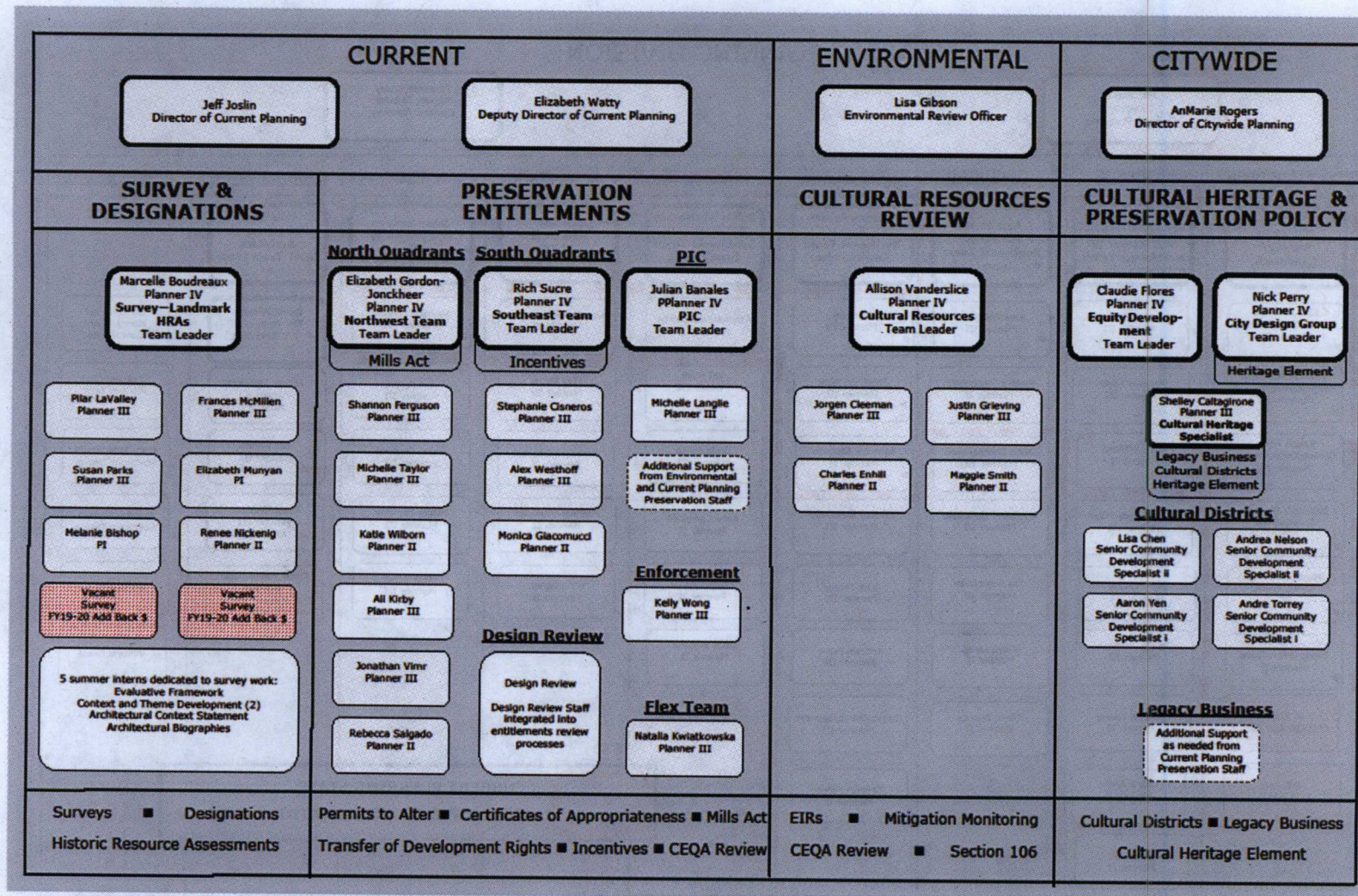
# Work Program Overview



#	Work Program Activity	Adopted FY19-20 Budget	Proposed FY20-21 Budget	Proposed FY21-22 Budget
1	Current Planning	76.16	74.51	74.40
2	Citywide Planning	48.01	47.39	47.36
3	Environmental Planning	44.17	43.77	43.74
4	Zoning Administration & Compliance	14.83	15.09	15.09
5	Administration	53.97	56.77	56.94
Total		237.14	237.53	237.53



# Preservation Across the Department





# Preservation Within Current Planning

CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION								
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<div> <div>CURRENT PLANNING STAFF DEDICATED TO PRESERVATION WORK</div> </div>								



## Preservation Work Program (1 of 2)

Work Program Activity	Adopted FY19-20 Budget	Proposed FY20-21 Budget	Proposed FY21-22 Budget
Preservation Survey Programs (Including the Citywide Historic Survey)	2.00	5.00	5.00
Historic Resource Assessments	0.00	0.70	0.70
Cultural Heritage Initiatives	1.50	0.60	0.60
Legacy Business Program	0.20	0.20	0.20
Heritage Conservation Element	0.20	0.60	0.60
Preservation-related CEQA Case Work	7.00	6.75	6.75
Certificates of Appropriateness, Permits to Alter, Transfer Development Rights, and other Preservation Applications	1.50	4.50	4.50
Preservation Incentives	0.00	0.05	0.05
Design Review Team Staffing	0.00	0.10	0.10
Preservation Project Review Meetings	0.50	0.50	0.50
Section 106	0.00	0.20	0.20



## Preservation Work Program (2 of 2)

Work Program Activity	Adopted FY19-20 Budget	Proposed FY20-21 Budget	Proposed FY21-22 Budget
HPC Work Program	1.00	0.05	0.05
Landmark Designations	0.00	0.75	0.75
National Register Nominations	0.00	0.15	0.15
Community-Sponsored Designations	0.15	0.00	0.00
Preservation-Specific Legislation Coordination	0.10	0.10	0.10
Special Projects	0.50	0.00	0.00
Preservation PIC Staffing	0.00	0.70	0.70
Mills Act	0.00	0.20	0.20
Racial & Social Equity	0.00	0.10	0.10
Design Guidelines	0.00	0.05	0.05
HP Monitoring & Coordination	0.10	0.10	0.10
Total	14.75	21.40	21.40



## Preservation Additional Resources

Project/Program	FY19-20 Funding	FY20-21 Proposed Funding	FY21-22 Proposed Funding
Cultural Heritage Element Environmental Review	\$0	\$0	\$100,000
Citywide Survey	\$597,000	\$250,000	TBD
CLG (state OHP) grant	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
FOCP Grants Preservation Library & Window Guidelines	\$16,200	\$1,200	\$1,200
Total	\$658,200	\$296,200	TBD



## Budget Calendar **FY20-22**

Date

Work Program Activity

01/15	Draft budget and work program review with the Historic Preservation Commission
01/23	Draft budget and work program review with the Planning Commission
02/05	Request recommendation of approval of the budget and work program with the Historic Preservation Commission
02/13	Request approval of the budget and work program with the Planning Commission
02/21	Budget Submission to the Mayor
06/01	Mayor's Proposed Budget is published
July 2020	Budget considered at Board of Supervisors



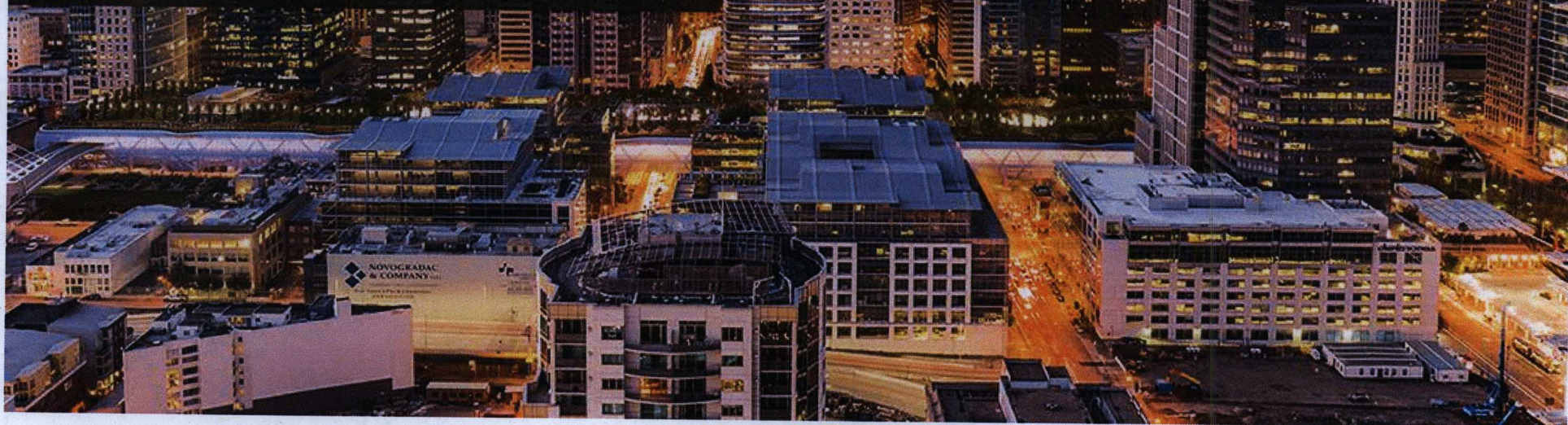
THANK YOU



**San Francisco**  
**Planning**

**Deborah Landis**  
Deputy Director of Administration  
San Francisco Planning

Deborah.Landis@sfgov.org  
[www.sfplanning.org](http://www.sfplanning.org)





J. Bluth

# SENATE BILL 330 HOUSING CRISIS ACT OF 2019

INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION

San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission  
January 15, 2020



**San Francisco**  
**Planning**



# SB 330 "HOUSING CRISIS ACT" OVERVIEW

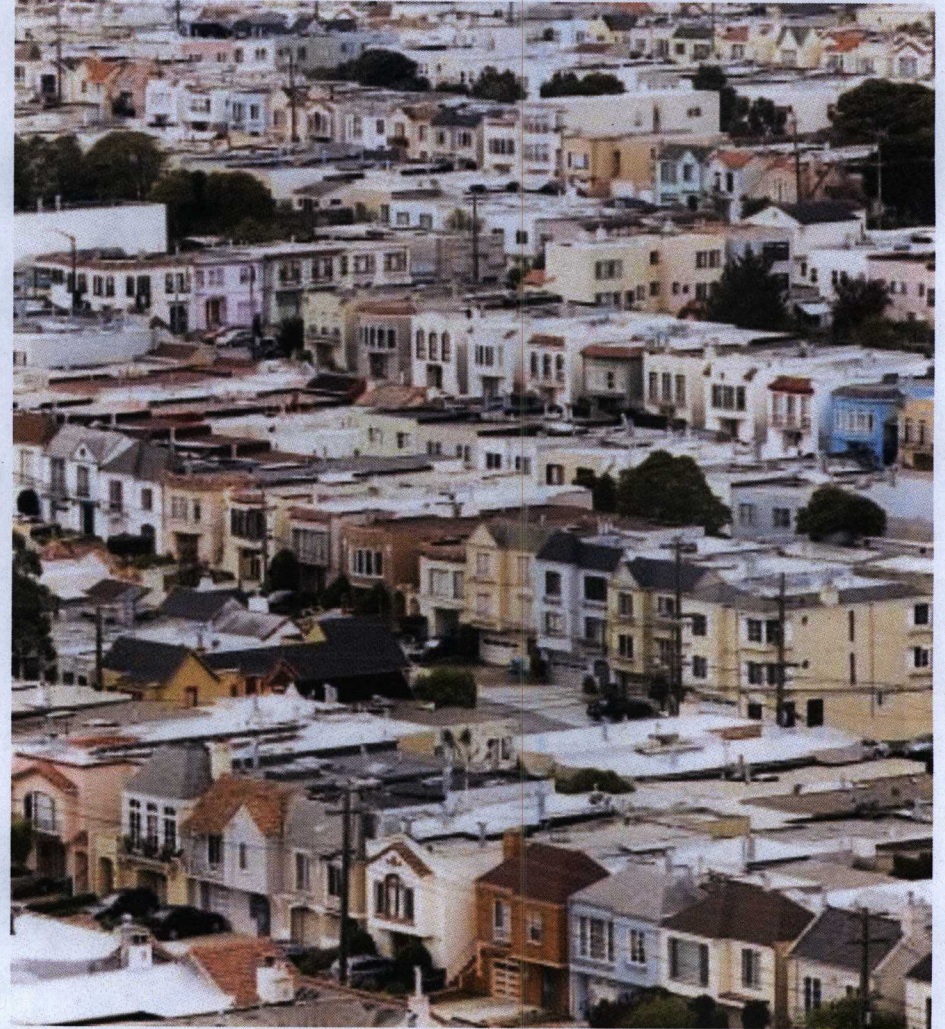


- Introduced by Sen. Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) and signed into law October 2019
- Effective January 1, 2020 until January 1, 2025
- Some provisions apply only to “urbanized areas” per US Census, others apply to all localities
- All provisions apply in San Francisco



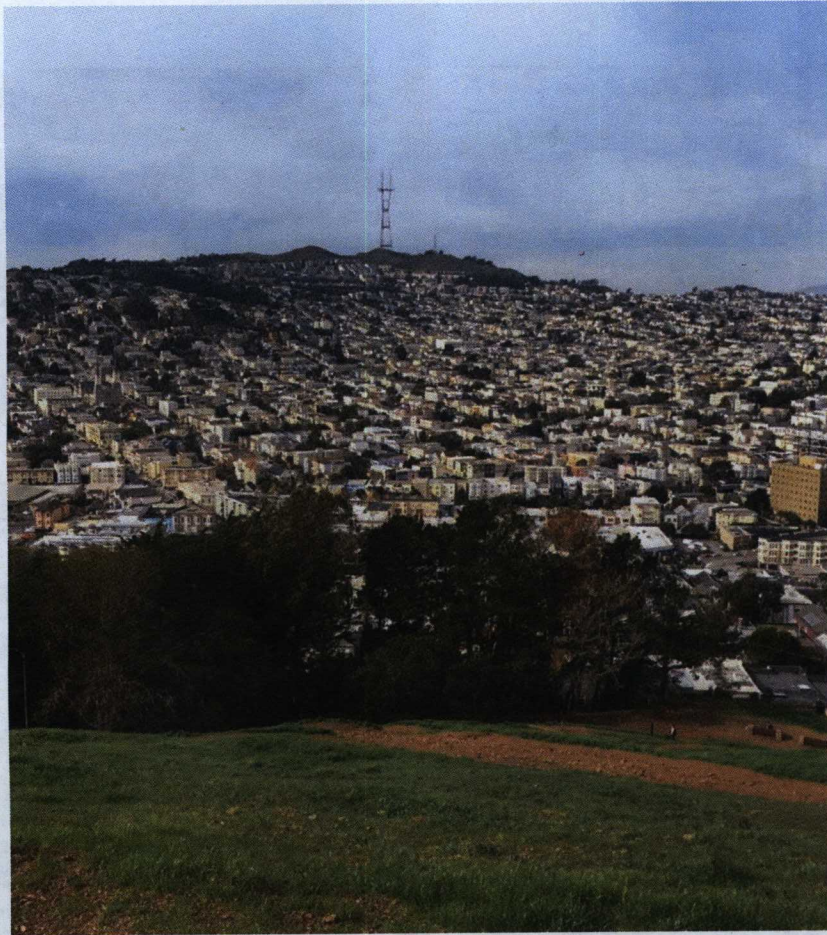
# SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” OVERVIEW

1. Limits on **downzoning** and new design guidelines
2. Application Review Process:
  - ❖ City can only apply rules in effect at time of “**preliminary application**”
  - ❖ **Local historic landmarks** determination fixed at time of Project Application
  - ❖ Limit of **5 public hearings** for code-complying projects
3. Replacement housing and relocation assistance required for existing residential units





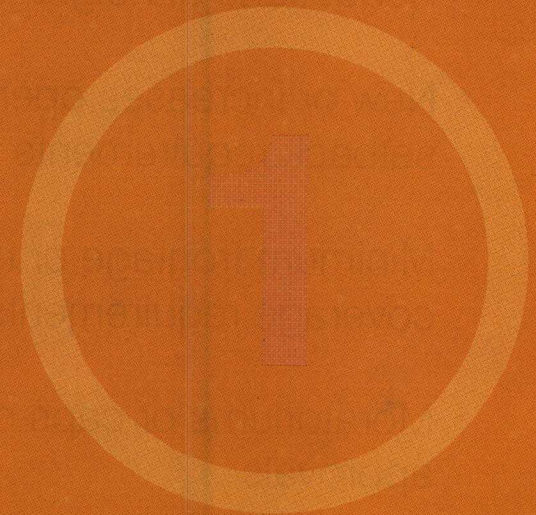
## SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” **WHAT’S *NOT* IN THE BILL**



- No mandated upzonings
- No new “ministerial” approvals
- Does not supersede Coastal Act or CEQA
- Short-term rental controls OK
- New inclusionary and rent control ordinances OK
- Fire hazard zones exempted
- Exceptions for public health and safety



# ZONING ACTIONS AND DESIGN STANDARDS



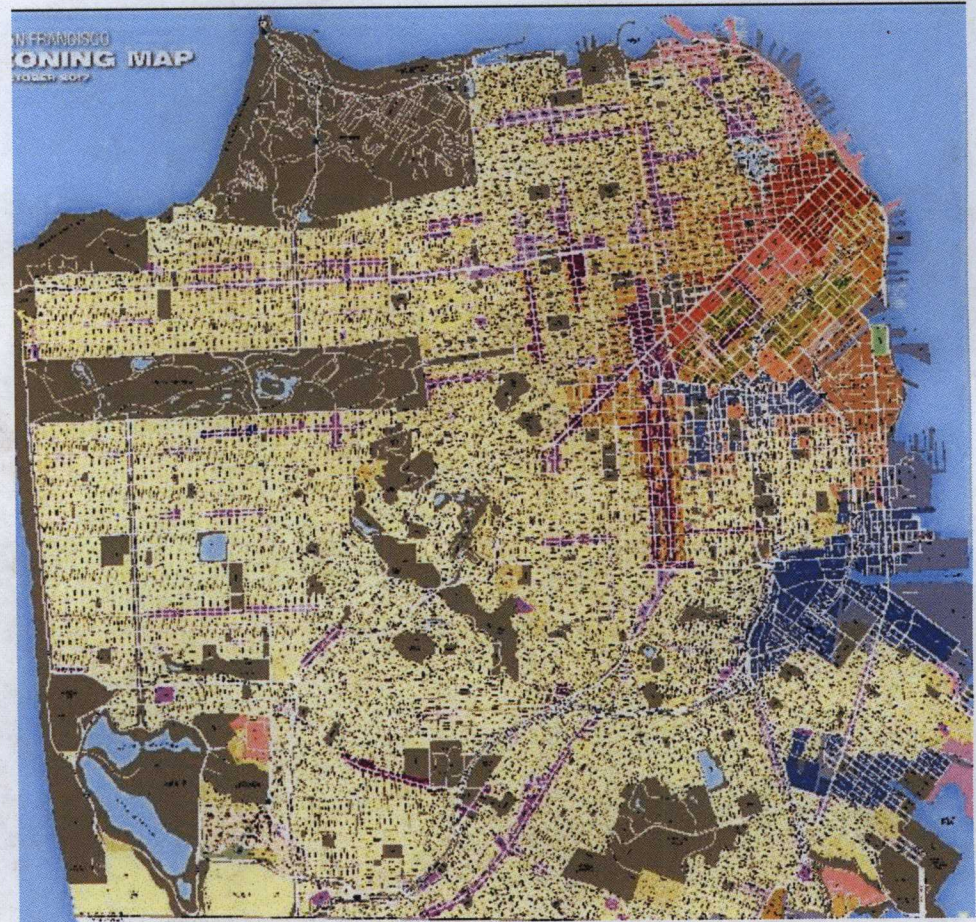


# SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” ZONING ACTIONS

## 1. Downzoning prohibited where housing was allowed as of 2018:

- Reductions of height, density, FAR
- New or increases open space, lot size, setback requirements
- Minimum frontage or maximum lot coverage requirements
- Moratoriums or caps on housing approvals

*Except* if balanced by concurrent upzonings elsewhere





# SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” DESIGN STANDARDS

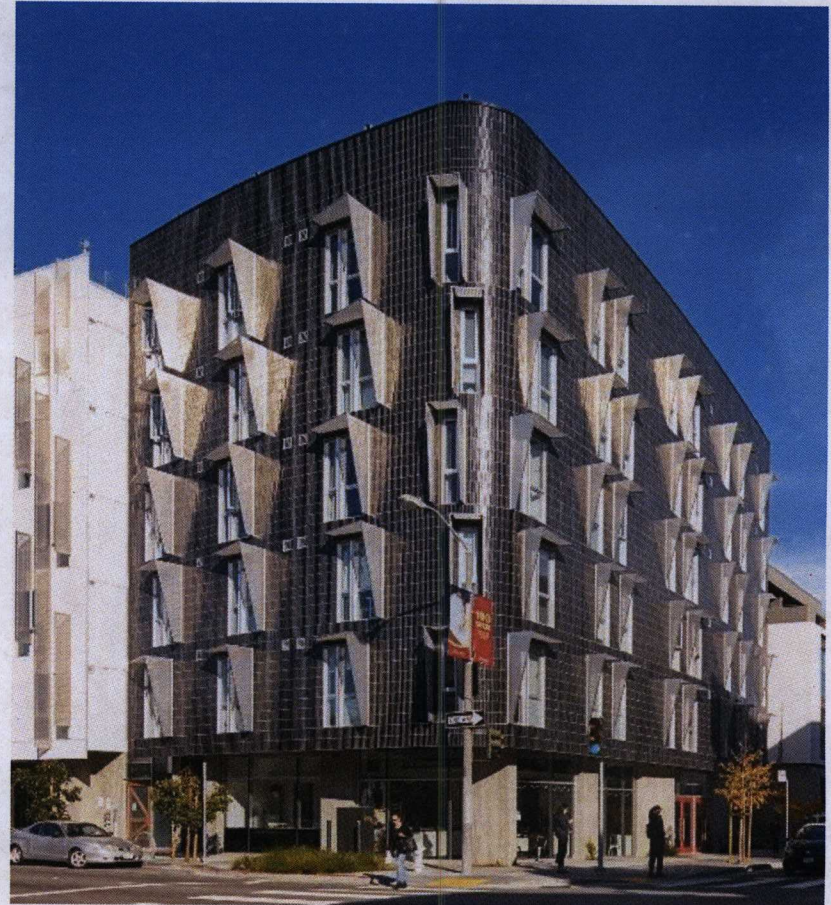
2. Design standards must be objective after January 1, 2020

Existing Guidelines remain in effect:

- Urban Design Guidelines
- Residential Design Guidelines
- Calle 24, Japantown Special Area Design Guidelines, etc...
- Retained Elements Design Guidelines

Upcoming efforts:

- Historic Design Guidelines





# APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS





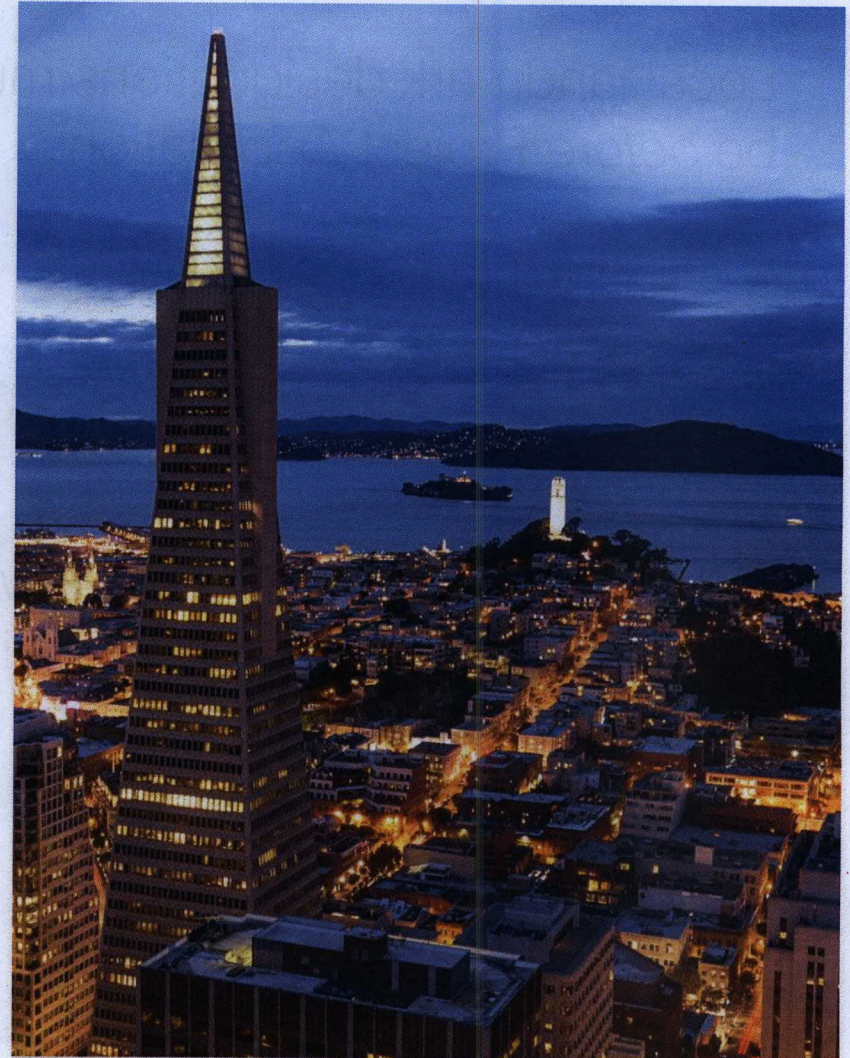
# SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” PRELIMINARY HOUSING APPLICATIONS

## 1. Development Standards “frozen” at time of Preliminary Application

- Must submit *development application* within 6 months (Project Application)
- Must commence construction within 30 months of approval (site permit)
- May not increase by more than 20% (except via State Density Bonus)
- Impact and application fees may be indexed annually

Preliminary Housing Development Application available online:

- may submit with Project Application or PPA application





## SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATIONS

### 2. Local landmark designations must be *before* Project Application:

- Article 10 historic landmarks
- Article 11 historic conservation districts
- ❖ CEQA historic resource review and mitigations still required via Historic Resource Evaluation





# SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” LIMITED PUBLIC HEARINGS

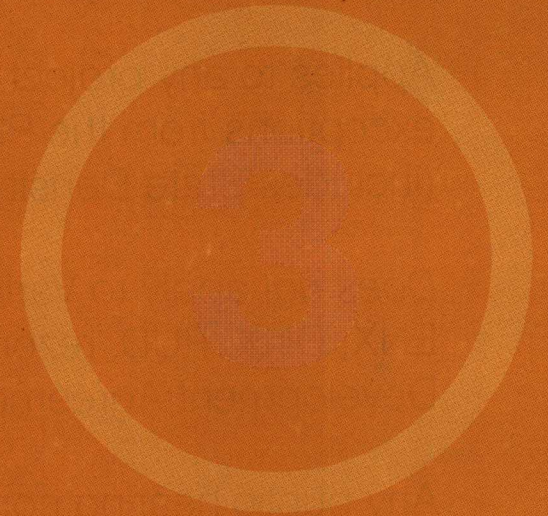
## 3. Limit of 5 public hearings for code-complying housing projects

- Applies to any project *not* seeking exceptions from the Planning Code (includes State Density Bonus)
- Does *not* apply to Variance, some CUAs, ENX, DNX, PUD, rezonings, or Development Agreements.
- Any public hearing connected to project approval: informational, continuance, or appeals
- Does *not* apply to CEQA hearings
- Joint hearings count as one



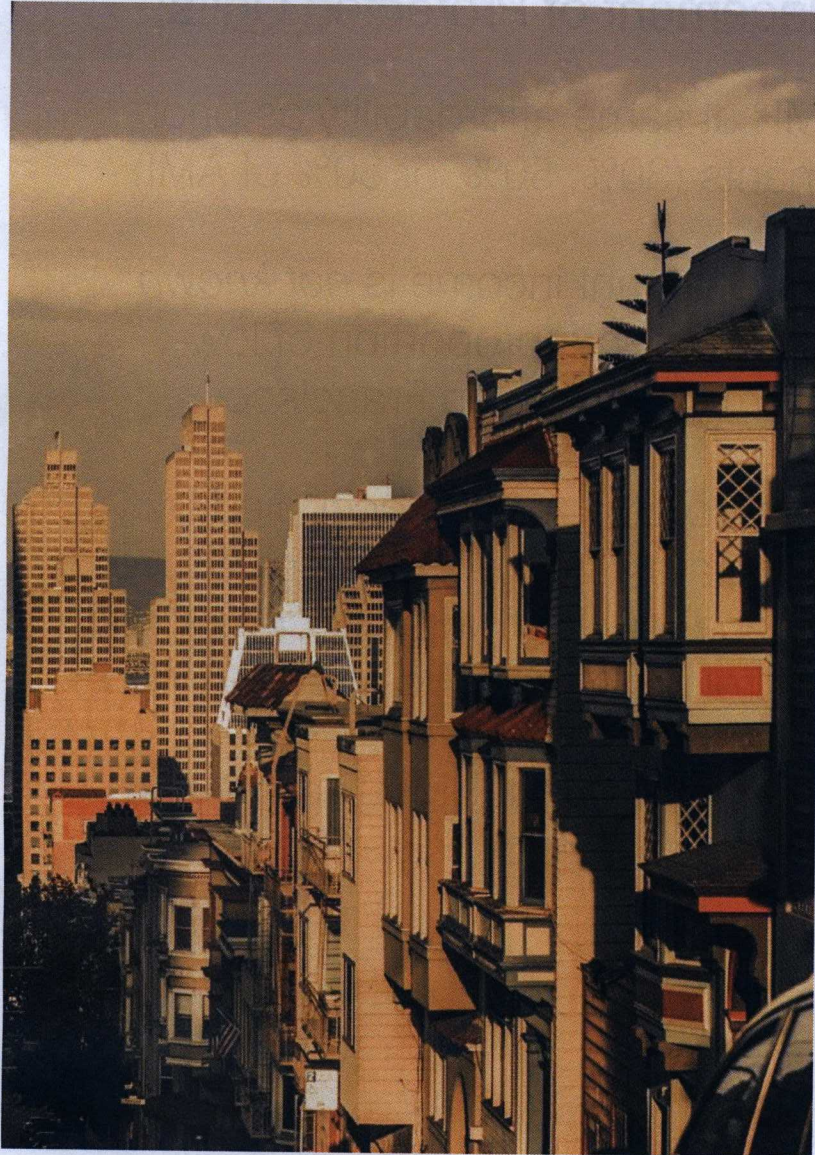


# REPLACEMENT UNITS AND RELOCATION ASSISTANCE





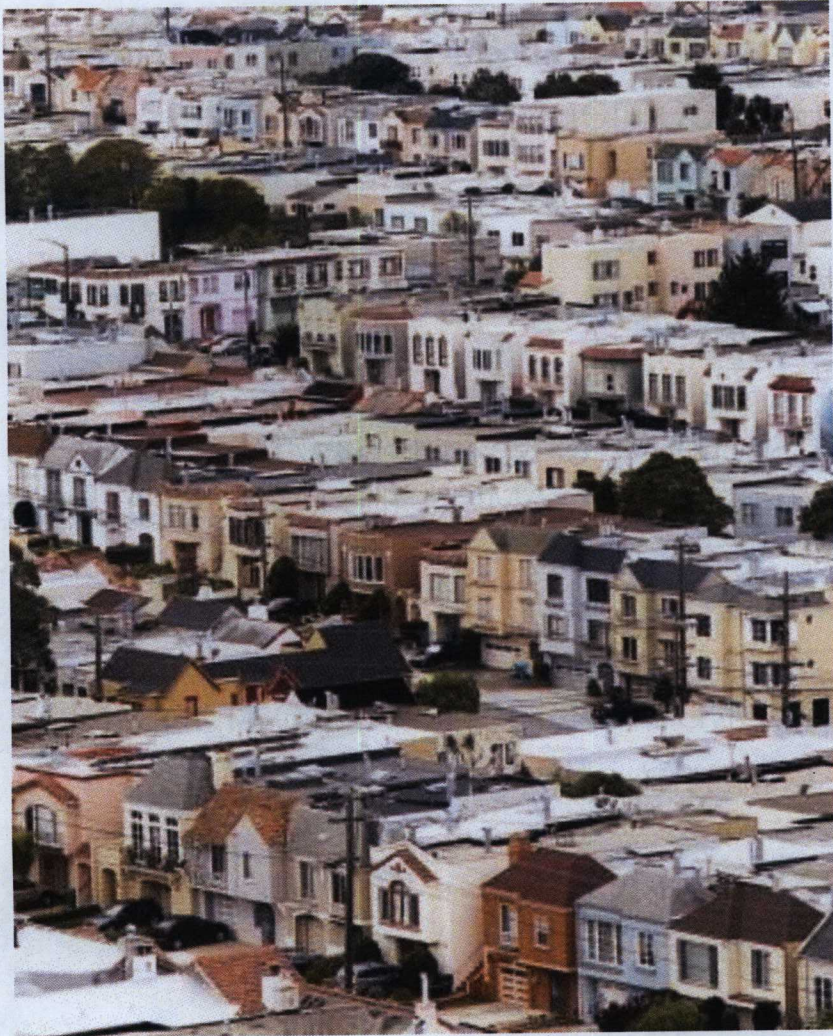
## SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” REPLACEMENT UNITS



1. Demolition of *any* existing units: replacement project must include at least as many units
2. Demolition of “*protected units*”
  - Below market rate, rent controlled, Section 8, or occupied by low-income tenant (80% AMI) in the past 5 years
  - Ellis Act eviction in the past 10 yearsmust be replaced at comparable size and affordability
3. Existing tenants shall receive:
  - Right of first refusal to return
  - Relocation payments
  - Right to remain until 6 months before construction



## SB 330 “HOUSING CRISIS ACT” REPLACEMENT UNITS



### Replacement of Protected Units:

- BMR at same affordability as prior tenants (30%, 50%, or 80% of AMI)
- If prior tenant income is *not known* assume same proportion of low-income units in San Francisco
- Rent-controlled units occupied by moderate-income tenants or above may be replaced with either new rent control units or BMRs at 80% AMI
- Any replacement BMR units required are *in addition* to Inclusionary units



THANK YOU



**San Francisco**  
**Planning**

**Jacob Bintliff**  
Senior Planner  
Special Projects & Policy

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[www.sfplanning.org](http://www.sfplanning.org)





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M. Taylor

January 14, 2020

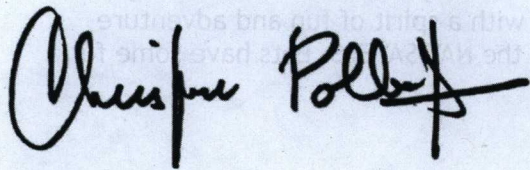
Commissioners  
San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission  
1650 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94103

Re: 2019-022126COA  
Golden Gate Park, Music Concourse, 150th Anniversary, Observation Wheel

Dear Commissioners,

I am very much in support of the proposed Observation Wheel planned for installation in Golden Gate Park's Music Concourse for a limited one-year period of operation. As a historian and author of three books about the park, it seems a natural fit for the park's sesquicentennial celebration activities. As a focal point, the Wheel will bring residents and visitors alike to the park. As a consequence, a visitor cannot miss all the park has to offer in the way of recreation—and as a San Francisco historic resource.

Sincerely,



Christopher Pollock  
Historian

Christopher Pollock  
1000 Steiner Street  
#303  
San Francisco, CA  
94115-4622  
Cell: 415 640 9120  
E-mail: pollockchris100@gmail.com



January 14, 2020

Commissioners  
Historic Preservation Commission  
1650 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to support the installation of the Third Wheel for the 150th year celebration of Golden Gate Park. I am a 4th generation native of the City, I have lived adjacent to the park for 70 years, I am an active member of Inner Sunset Park Neighbors, I spend time in the park everyday. I am an active participant in the San Francisco Lawn Bowling Club and I live one block from the 5th Ave park entrance. You can't get much more involved than that.

I whole heartedly support the installation of the third wheel as a celebratory monument to our parks history. By its presence it will focus attention on the evolution of the park and its impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. So few elements of the past are available to our kids and to the "New Citizens of the City. I think we should take every opportunity to stimulate awareness of our history and culture. The wheel is a wonderful experiential symbol of our past that can be enjoyed by participants or observers. Let's be BOLD and creative and give it a spin. In the recognition of those early San Franciscans that gave us the worlds finest park, lets move forward with a spirit of fun and adventure and not get bogged down in the inertia of the NAY SAYERS. Lets have some fun and party!

Al Minvielle  
1264 5th Ave



**From:** [fredrinne@monkeybrains.net](mailto:fredrinne@monkeybrains.net)  
**To:** Taylor, Michelle (CPC)  
**Subject:** Case No. 2019-022126COA  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:20:31 PM

---

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Hello-

It has come to my attention that it is planned for a 150 foot tall ferris wheel to be installed in GG Park for one year, brightly lit with LEDs and security lighting all night. This would be obnoxious to the public and detrimental to San Francisco's remaining wildlife for which GG Park is crucial habitat.

Spotlights atop the Music Concourse likewise. Light pollution is increasingly understood as a hazard to birds and not too good for people either.

I urge your staff to deny permits for this ugly and overbearing intrusion on our scarce natural areas.

Thank You for your time,

Fred Rinne

San Francisco





## Coyote Yipps

*Information About San Francisco Coyotes: Behavior & Personality, Coexistence & Outreach, by Janet Kessler:  
Unveiling First-Hand Just How Savvy, Social, Sentient and Singular Coyotes Really Are!*

January 7, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission  
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 2019-022126COA: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed Lighted Ferris Wheel  
and Bandshell in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland,

I have recently heard about the proposal for a lighted ferris wheel in Golden Gate Park for their 150th Golden Gate Park celebration. I find this extremely upsetting and hope that you will cancel the project.

Not only will this project — the construction and even more so, the final project — be disruptive to wildlife in the area through bright lights and noise, but it's also going in the opposite direction to what most people want for our park. We have a wonderful resources now where nature can be appreciated, learned from and enjoyed: this is what our park has been about. But with bright lights and a huge ferris wheel you are turning the park into a Las Vegas — into less of a nature area which we need more people to be involved with, and more into artifice, lights, money and crowds of people. I don't think this is the way we should be "celebrating" a park, especially here in San Francisco, named after St. Francis who was an animal person.

Please don't allow this project to proceed. Instead, let's celebrate the anniversary with a focus on nature: trees, birds, animal life, and what we can do to preserve this dwindling resource in our world.

With appreciation for consideration,

Sincerely,

*Janet Kessler*

Janet Kessler

[www.Coyoteyipps.com](http://www.Coyoteyipps.com)

Coyote Voicings   Gallery from INSTAGRAM   Take A Short Coyote Survey   UrbanCoyoteSquared:  
GALLERY   A Guidelines and Safety Box   Coyote Yipps Blog  
San Francisco as Habitat and Place   Resources  
<https://coyoteyipps.com/>





## Friends of the Music Concourse (c)

Dedicated to the Preservation  
of the Historic Golden Gate Park  
Music Concourse

January 14, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission  
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 2019-022126COA: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed Lighted Observation wheel and Bandshell in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland and Commissioners,

Friends of the Music Concourse was established at the time that a garage was proposed for the Music Concourse Bowl in Golden Gate Park [the Park.] Part of that proposal included cutting down all of the pollarded trees in the Music Concourse in order to build the garage under the Bowl. Fortunately, public outrage was aroused at the possible loss of the beloved 100-year-old trees and the other historic features. The trees were saved, the historic design was preserved, and the area was landmarked to protect this remarkable historic asset from future degradation. However, there are always temptations to look at parkland and park facilities and view them as opportunities for development or producing income, ignoring that the projects proposed might be detrimental to the very parkland that attracts the public in the first place.

Friends of the Music Concourse is very concerned about the current proposal to place a lighted observation wheel in the Music Concourse for one year and to light the Music Concourse Bandshell, as well as installing 19 searchlights on the roof of the Bandshell. We will examine the possible impacts to both the Concourse and to Golden Gate Park in this letter.

### **GGP is historically a landscape park, not an amusement park or a carnival.**

The Recreation and Park website lists the natural beauty of the Park first in its list of the Park's characteristics.

"Golden Gate Park is known primarily for its naturalistic beauty. From a vast, windswept expanse of sand dunes, park engineer William Hammond Hall and master gardener John McLaren carved out an oasis—a verdant, horticulturally diverse, and picturesque public space where city dwellers can relax and reconnect with the natural world. The rest, as they say, is history." <sup>1</sup>

The National Register designation describes it as a "*green oasis in a sea of urbanization*." <sup>2</sup> It further states that,

<sup>1</sup> Department of Recreation and Park Website, <https://sfrecpark.org/destination/golden-gate-park/>

<sup>2</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 1.

\*\*\*\*\*

Page 1 of 5

(musicconcourse@earthlink.net)



"Golden Gate Park was conceived as a naturalistic pleasure ground park to provide a sylvan retreat from urban pressures for all citizens, rich and poor."<sup>3</sup>

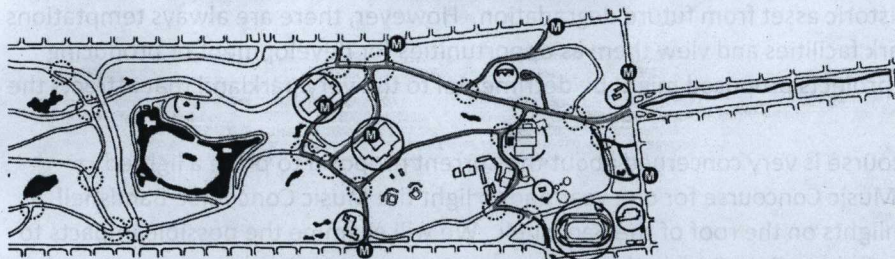
**Over the years, Golden Gate Park has both experienced and resisted intense development.**

The 1998 Golden Gate Park Master Plan (Master Plan) describes the intent of designer William Hammond Hall to lay out a park that was, for the most part, a wild and natural landscape west of Strawberry Hill, and, for the most part, open to human activity in the eastern section. However, the intent was always to have all activities take place in a park setting, and to continue to provide a landscape park experience for residents. The Master Plan shows that much development has taken place over the years, as more and more built facilities have been added to the Park and more and more landscape has been lost.

"Now in its second century, the park is facing new and growing challenges. Most of these are the result of the growth and change of the City around the park. The kind of vision that was required to create the park from barren sand dunes is also needed today to preserve and enhance the park to ensure that it will continue to serve future generations. This Master Plan for Golden Gate Park attempts to provide that vision and lay the groundwork for its preservation and enhancement into the next century."<sup>4</sup>

**In the Department of Recreation and Park's own planning guide, the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, lighting is intended to be limited in Golden Gate Park overall and in the Music Concourse specifically.**

Lighting of Golden Gate Park, including the Music Concourse, is intended to be primarily for "use and safety considerations."<sup>5</sup> It is not intended to increase night use. This map from the Golden Gate Park Master Plan (1998) shows the only areas that may be lighted under the Recreation and Park Department's own guidelines. In the Music Concourse area specifically, the de Young Museum and the California Academy of Sciences are the only areas that are designated as "night use areas." The rest of the Music Concourse and the Bandshell are not even designated as "potential night use areas."<sup>6</sup>



**Legend**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ○ Night use areas                           | —— Primary access roads and adjacent paths to night use areas (highest priority) |
| ⊖ Potential night use areas                 | —— Path access to night use areas (highest priority)                             |
| ⊙ Important intersections (medium priority) | Ⓜ MUNI stops serving night use areas   |

9-5 Lighting Plan, GGPMP<sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 1.

<sup>4</sup> Introduction, "Golden Gate Park Master Plan," 1998. Page 1-1.

<sup>5</sup> Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

<sup>6</sup> Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

<sup>7</sup> Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

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The cumulative impact of a lighted observation wheel and adding extensive lighting and spotlights to the Bandshell is being ignored by submitting separate Certificates of Appropriateness.

The Department of Recreation and Park has decided to present the COA for the Observation wheel and the one for the Bandshell lighting to the HPC in two separate meetings. The artificial nighttime lighting created by these two projects will have a cumulative impact on the Music Concourse and on Golden Gate Park, and those impacts should be considered together in that context.

What will be the extent of lighting the Bandshell? How will events here add to the impact on the Park from large concerts and other events?

Will there be a large number of lighted concerts in the Bandshell in the evenings? How does this correlate with the Recreation and Park's previously stated determination to limit large events in Golden Gate Park over a year's time? Will the Department be eliminating or cutting back on such events as Hardly Strictly Bluegrass or the Outside Lands Festival? The many festivals bring enormous crowds into the parkland and impact it not only through the crowds that trample the parkland but also through the all-night lighting that is installed for protection of equipment and security of the performance areas.

Lighted observation wheel and intense lighting for Bandshell are not appropriate for the Music Concourse or for Golden Gate Park

The introduction of the lighted observation wheel and the intense lighting proposed for the Bandshell will change the Music Concourse from the classic outdoor performance space it was established to be when laid out in 1895, into a space with more of a carnival atmosphere. Golden Gate Park as a whole was conceived as a naturalistic pleasure ground park to provide a sylvan retreat from urban pressures for all citizens, rich and poor. The parkland has evolved into a space in which wildlife has also found a refuge and a home. With increased development, there is a point at which both wildlife habitat and the sense of parkland will be lost. All that will be left if a series of amusements with a few trees interspersed in between, to remind us that this was once a great landscape park.

An observation wheel is not a historic feature of the Music Concourse

The Midwinter Fair ferris wheel was in the Park for less than a year. It was removed at the end of the Fair, along with the majority of elements that had been imposed on the Park for the Midwinter Fair, over the objections of many.<sup>8</sup>

The National Register contains three full pages of lists of Individual Park Resources in Golden Gate Park.<sup>9</sup> The ferris wheel from the Mid-Winter Exposition is not on that list.

The City landmarking (249) does not list a ferris wheel as either contributing or non-contributing.

The current proposal is therefore for a non-contributing element that will be located in the Music Concourse longer than even the original ferris wheel.

Protecting habitat and biodiversity are part of the Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) but are not mentioned in detail the COA application

The COA does not quote all of Objective 4 from the ROSE. Policy statements about the importance of protecting biodiversity and wildlife are left out of the COA:

**"OBJECTIVE 4**

**PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BIODIVERSITY, HABITAT VALUE, AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF OPEN SPACES AND ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

*San Francisco is a heavily urbanized city, which nonetheless has a rich variety of plant and animal communities. Among these are coastal scrub, grassland, oak woodlands, marsh, and*

<sup>8</sup> Clary, Raymond H. "The Making of Golden Gate Park, 1865-1906." Page 112 - 113.

<sup>9</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, pages 3- 5.



stream-side habitats and their associated wildlife. Some of these habitats hold species found nowhere outside of the Bay Area. The City also has significant landscaped areas, such as conifer plantings in Golden Gate Park. **By providing food and shelter for migratory and resident birds, butterflies, and insects they too play a major role in supporting San Francisco's biodiversity. Biodiversity includes the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur. Maintaining biodiversity requires genetic diversity, species diversity, and habitat diversity. San Francisco can be a leader in creating new and more sustainable open spaces by ensuring that all open spaces, including new and renovated park spaces, are developed in a way that enhances and works with local biodiversity.** "

" POLICY 4.1

Preserve, protect and restore local biodiversity.

"...The City should employ appropriate management practices to maintain a healthy and resilient ecosystem which preserves and protects plant and wildlife habitat..."<sup>10</sup>

The ROSE is very specific about protecting wildlife from artificial lighting. This information is also left out of the COA.

POLICY 4.3

Integrate the protection and restoration of local biodiversity into open space construction, renovation, management and maintenance.

**Lighting. Park lighting should be environmentally efficient and provide safety and security to park users, while being as limited as possible in order to protect wildlife in natural areas from the impacts of light pollution.**<sup>11</sup>

**Environmental organizations have submitted letters of concern about these projects**

Many organizations have written to your commission about the negative impact of the proposed projects on the wildlife and biodiversity present in - and migrating over - Golden Gate Park and the Music Concourse. Please refer to the attached letters from the Sierra Club, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Raptors Are The Solution, and Coyote Yipps. Comments include:

"...we believe that this installation will have significant negative impacts on migratory and nesting birds as well as other wildlife. Due to these potential impacts, as well as potential impacts to "dark skies", we ask that a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be prepared before any permit or other approval is considered." Sierra Club, 1-7-20.

"...The proposed 150' structure in the midst of the park poses a threat to birds flying through the park and the artificial light poses an additional risk..." Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1-3-20.

"... We believe the proposed structure will pose a threat to raptors and other birds flying through the park: The glass and artificial light could very possibly confuse and disorient them, resulting in collisions and mortality." Raptors Are The Solution, 1-7-20

"... Not only will this project — the construction and even more so, the final project — be disruptive to wildlife in the area through bright lights and noise, but it's also going in the opposite direction to what most people want for our park..." Coyote Yipps.

**This proposal has already been heard and voted on at the Recreation and Park Commission - before bringing it to the Historic Preservation Commission**<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> [https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation\\_OpenSpace\\_Element\\_ADOPTED.pdf](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation_OpenSpace_Element_ADOPTED.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation\\_OpenSpace\\_Element\\_ADOPTED.pdf](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation_OpenSpace_Element_ADOPTED.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> SF Recreation and Park Commission, December 19, 2019, [www.sfgovtv.org](http://www.sfgovtv.org), video on demand.



The Recreation and Park Commission approved this project on December 19th, 2019, before the HPC's hearing. This has happened with other projects. The preservation commissioners have asked in the past, and RPC has agreed, that the HPC should be notified and given the opportunity to hear, evaluate, and approve or propose mitigations before the issues are presented to the RPC.

Therefore, if the RPC has agreed to a contract without the HPC's approval, that is their responsibility and should not affect your decision about this project.

Golden Gate Park is already stressed with the number of visitors that enter the Park every year.

According to the Department of Recreation and Park website, Golden Gate Park has more than 13 million visitors each year.<sup>13</sup> Having a large number of visitors brings wear and tear to the parkland and stress to the wildlife living in it. It is unfortunate that a choice is being made to highlight the park by adding artificial lighting to such an extent that it detracts from the landscape qualities, compromises habitat, and threatens wildlife.

What reassurance does the public have that all of the structures and lighting would be removed completely at the end of the celebration?

Not everyone feels the same way about protecting parkland, as both gardener John McLaren and designer William Hammond Hall observed. What reassurance can we have that ALL of the structures and ALL of the lighting will be completely removed immediately after the end of the celebration, and that the Park and Bandshell will not be damaged in the process of either set-up or breakdown of the equipment.

"It's a perfectly horrible way to ruin the natural beauty which is the essence of Golden Gate Park ."

In conclusion, I will quote from the second eloquent letter sent by Coyote Yipps,

*"Again, I am asking you to OPPOSE this plan. It's a perfectly horrible way to ruin the natural beauty which is the essence of Golden Gate Park with its trees, vegetation, old carved stone structures, and all the wonderful wildlife there. In fact, it will interfere with wildlife and actually cause stress. Our "wildness" areas are a valuable but vanishing commodity in our modern world where those who want to make a buck are eschewing nature for lights, noise, artificiality and anything else that will bring in money, which is then turned around to pave over more of paradise. Our youth are not going to value nature if there is less and less of it for them to fall in love with. "*<sup>14</sup>

Golden Gate Park is more than a collection of individual attractions. As stated in the National Register,

*"it is important to view Golden Gate Park as a whole. Golden Gate Park was developed over many years, but it was conceived as a single creation that we now consider an historic designed landscape."*<sup>15</sup>

Friends of the Music Concourse urges you to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness for both the Observation Wheel and the lighting of the Bandshell.

Sincerely,

Katherine Howard

Katherine Howard, ASLA

Co-Chair

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<sup>13</sup> "We're proud to welcome more than 13 million visitors each year to Golden Gate Park, one of San Francisco's greatest treasures " Recreation and Park Department website. <https://sfrecpark.org/destination/golden-gate-park/>

<sup>14</sup> Kessler, Janet. Coyote Yipps, bandshell and spotlights, 1-12-20.

<sup>15</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 2



**From:** Ionin, Jonas (CPC)  
**To:** Taylor, Michelle (CPC)  
**Cc:** Feliciano, Josephine (CPC)  
**Subject:** FW: Golden Gate Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:29:32 PM

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Jonas P. Ionin,  
Director of Commission Affairs

Planning Department|City & County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103  
Direct: 415-558-6309|Fax: 415-558-6409

jonas.ionin@sfgov.org  
www.sfplanning.org

-----Original Message-----

From: David Romano <droma4@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 3:15 PM  
To: Ionin, Jonas (CPC) <jonas.ionin@sfgov.org>  
Cc: SF Ocean Edge <sfoceanedge@earthlink.net>  
Subject: Golden Gate Park

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Dear Secretary Ionin,

Please include in the record the following email that I have sent to the Commissioners, individually. Thank you.

Dear Commissioners,

Please don't approve any additional lighting for the Music Concourse or allow the Ferris Wheel to run at night. If we truly want to celebrate the 150th birthday of Golden Gate Park, we should honor nature and the Park by leaving it as dark as safety allows for one year, instead of adding lights. Limiting light pollution would show respect for the Park and actually benefit all the flora and fauna that make up Golden Gate Park.

In San Francisco, where the ambient lighting at night is already bright, let the night sky above Golden Gate Park be restored, as closely as possible, to how it was 150 years ago. That would be a fitting tribute to the City's crown jewel. Golden Gate Park is not a county fair ground or an amusement park.

Sincerely,

David Romano  
San Francisco



**From:** Lance Carnes  
**To:** [aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com); [dianematsuda@hotmail.com](mailto:dianematsuda@hotmail.com); Black, Kate (CPC); Foley, Chris (CPC); [RSEJohns@yahoo.com](mailto:RSEJohns@yahoo.com); [jonathan.pearlman.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.pearlman.hpc@gmail.com); So, Lydia (CPC); Taylor, Michelle (CPC); Tonin, Jonas (CPC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: ALERT! New projects to light up Golden Gate Park with more artificial lighting. COME TO A HEARING! WRITE LETTERS! (174-194)  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2020 7:17:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[Music Concourse Ferris Wheel - Sierra Club, 1-7-20.pdf](#)  
[Coyote Yipps Ferris Wheel - GGP.PDF](#)  
[Raptors Are The Solution comments on Lighted Wheel in GG Park.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) members,

Regarding the Music Concourse lighting project described below, please consider the intent of the Golden Gate Park Master Plan which does not support this use of the Park, and the effects of this project on wildlife and the City's night sky. Vote No on a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) at the meeting Weds, Jan 15.

Respectfully,  
Lance Carnes  
North Beach

**New bright, artificial lighting  
proposed for Golden Gate Park:**

**A 140 ft., lighted ferris wheel, 19 new spotlights on top of the Bandshell**

The Recreation and Park Department is planning to install a >140 foot high ferris wheel in the Music Concourse for the 150th Golden Gate Park Anniversary celebration. The ferris wheel will have glass booths and be lighted with LED lights every evening until 10:00 p.m. for up to one year. After 10:00 p.m., the ferris wheel will be lighted with bright LED security lights. In addition, RPD plans to flood the Bandshell with new lighting and to place 19 spotlights on the roof of the Bandshell, pointing up to the sky.



lighted ferris wheel

Spreckels\_Searchlights

GGP is primarily a landscape park, not an amusement park or a carnival. In the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, the Department of Recreation and Park's own planning guide, lighting is intended to be limited in Golden Gate Park overall and in the Music Concourse specifically. In fact, neither the Bandshell nor the area where the ferris wheel will be placed are designated as areas to be lighted in this City document.

An observation wheel is not listed as a historic feature of the Music Concourse in any of the historic preservation documents. The cumulative impacts of a lighted observation wheel and spotlights are being ignored by this proposal.

Much of this will take place during the migration and nesting seasons. Habitat in Golden Gate Park is already stressed with the over 13 million visitors that enter the Park every year. Placing rotating glass in a park with bright lights and nearby spotlights is a recipe for disaster for birds. Lighting the Park beyond and above what is there now (including new lights at the tennis courts and the light show at the Conservatory of Flowers) deprives all wildlife of the darkness it needs to survive and to thrive.

Environmental groups have weighed in with letters of concern about this project and its impact on wildlife in Golden Gate Park, including the Sierra Club, RaptorsAreTheSolution, and Coyote Yips. Those letters are attached.





January 14, 2020

Commissioners  
Historic Preservation Commission  
1650 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing today to express my support of the Observation Wheel to be installed in the Music Concourse as part of the park's one hundred and fifty year birthday celebration. I believe the wheel is fantastic way to celebrate the park's rich past and exciting future. With a nod to the Firth Wheel installed in the park in 1894 – it is a wonderful tribute to historical uses of the park.

My organization, Bay Area Vintage Base ball, plays games nearby at Big Rec field with 1886 rules. When we step on the field we are transported back to another time in The Park. The feeling of history, and awe of how the world has changed comes to life. The wheel would help bring that feeling to those who visit.

On April 4th, Bay Area Vintage Base Ball will take the field at Big Rec and taking part in the festivities. Along with other events that will draw millions to the park through the year and highlight its importance as a historical and natural resource in San Francisco. We hope that part of that experience will be the Observation Wheel.

Sincerely,

Matthew Petty,  
Bay Area Vintage Base Ball





January 14, 2020

Commissioners  
Historic Preservation Commission  
1650 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the co-chairs of the Golden Gate Park 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honorary Committee, we write to express our support of the Observation Wheel to be installed in the Music Concourse as part of the park's one-year birthday celebration. We believe the wheel is an embodiment of the joy the celebration will bring to San Franciscans and visitors alike, and – with its allusion to the Firth Wheel installed in the park in 1894 – it is a wonderful nod to historical uses of the park.

The wheel is an important element of the year-long celebration of the park that will officially begin with a free community day on April 4, 2020 – the *exact* 150-year anniversary of the state legislation that created the park – and also include planting 150 trees, 150 improvement projects in the park and exhibits the airport, the main library and all branch libraries.

These events will draw millions to the park through the year and highlight its importance as a historical and natural resource in San Francisco. Nature-focused will take place on April 4 and throughout the year, including walks where participants will observe Great Blue Herons and chicks at Stow Lake and Red-Tailed Hawks along the Chain of Lakes. Historical activities on April 4 will include walks through the Patriots and Heroes groves, demonstrations of 1898-style model yachts at Spreckles Lake, and an "earthquake zone" with exhibits on the park's role in the aftermath of the 1906 Quake (and future emergency planning).

We believe that the Observation Wheel will attract a host of visitors to Golden Gate Park in its sesquicentennial year and are delighted by the opportunity this presents to spread the message of the extraordinary importance of the park as a natural and historic resource to our city and beyond.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Willie Brown

Charlotte Shultz

Nancy Hellman Bechtle

Mark Buell

Rodney Fong





**ROBERT W. CHERNY**  
**PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY**

San Francisco State University  
Home Address: 1462 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
e-mail: robt.cherny@gmail.com  
Home Phone: 415.665.2868

January 13, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Commissioners:

It's unlikely that I'll be able to attend the HPC meeting on Wednesday. I had some surgery on Thursday of last week and am still recuperating.

Your agenda item 10 is a staff report recommending approval of a giant ferris wheel in the Music Concourse. I was a member of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Committee in 2005 when we reviewed, discussed, amended, and approved the nomination of the Music Concourse as an Historic District.

I tried to find the final document that we approved, but if it is online the Planning Department website does an effective job of hiding it. I did find a copy of the nomination, without its appendices, and I'm attaching it to this message since there was no link to it in your agenda. You will note, on page 4, that the boundaries of the historic district include and extend beyond the area that is proposed to be occupied by the giant wheel.

I want to draw your attention especially to the following statement on p. 17:

the general feeling of the Music Concourse as a late 19th century and early 20th century landscape should be preserved. Those features which were created in 1928 and earlier are harmonious in their materials and detailing, and work very well together. New features, in addition to adding clutter, would be very unlikely to harmonize with the older features, and should not be allowed.

Let me emphasize: ***New features, in addition to adding clutter, would be very unlikely to harmonize with the older features, and should not be allowed.*** This statement does not differentiate between temporary or permanent new features. I understand it as applying to *all* new features. When the Park Department moved vender carts into the main part of the Music Concourse in 2009, this was determined to be inappropriate, even though the carts were "temporary." Instead, such "new features" and their accompanying "clutter" are now located *behind* the Spreckels Temple of Music, where they are not visible from the main part of the Music Concourse.

The nomination also indicates that the Music Concourse district is an *historic landscape*, in which individual historic elements work together to create a complex whole. The document before you states, "The proposed work will not impair the essential form and integrity of the Music Course [sic] landscape." In considering this statement, please look carefully at the top image on Attachment 1, page 2, which shows the Music Concourse landscape from a position some twenty feet or so in front of the Spreckels Temple of Music, looking toward the Francis Scott Key monument and the trees behind it, with an arrow designating the location of the giant



wheel. This view corridor is part of what is described in the landmark nomination on page 3: "The feeling of the Music Concourse as a district of fine outdoor art surrounding an outdoor performance space has been preserved. Accordingly, the district retains integrity of feeling." Now look at the top image in Attachment 1, p. 7, which shows the proposed wheel completely dwarfing the Key monument and the trees behind it. Note too that you are *not* presented with a rendering showing the same view corridor as on page 3 with the giant wheel in place, as it would be clear that it completely alters the "the feeling of the Music Concourse as a district of fine outdoor art" and completely alters the historic landscape.

I must say that I was slightly amused to see the wheel described as an "observation wheel." We should all be clear that this is simply a larger version of a carnival ride. Anyone wanting a view of the city from that height can have it, free, at the De Young Museum. The proposal notes that there was a similar ride at the Mid-Winter Fair. It was called the Firth Wheel, a copy of the Ferris Wheel that had been a popular amusement ride at the Chicago exposition the year before. The Firth Wheel, along with the other amusements, were located a short distance away from the Grand Court of the exposition, which is now the Music Concourse, so as not to compete with the cultural and scientific displays.

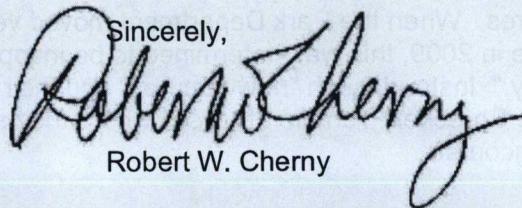
I found no indication in the proposal that the sponsors considered any other location for their giant wheel. I strongly suggest that you encourage them to do so. I would suggest that it be placed behind the bleachers at Big Rec, where there is adequate space and which would provide similar views to those in the Music Concourse. There is no reason why this attraction must be located in the Music Concourse.

I note that the proposal makes no mention of the Park Band, which offers Sunday afternoon concerts in the Spreckels Temple of Music from late April through early October. The nomination for the historic district notes (pp. 5-7) the historical significance of the Park Band. How will the giant wheel affect the band concerts? Will its motor overpower the band? Will there be recorded music when the wheel is running, in the way that carnival ferris wheels sometimes operate?

Finally, I note that construction is to begin within two months. That suggests that the decision has already been made, and that you are being asked to rubber stamp it. I encourage you *not* to do so.

Thank you for attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert W. Cherny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent and the last name "Cherny" following in a similar style.

Robert W. Cherny



**From:** William KLINGELHOFFER  
**To:** [aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com); [dianematsuda@hotmail.com](mailto:dianematsuda@hotmail.com); Black, Kate (CPC); Foley, Chris (CPC); [RSEJohns@yahoo.com](mailto:RSEJohns@yahoo.com); So, Lydia (CPC); Taylor, Michelle (CPC); Ionin, Jonas (CPC); [sfoceanedge@earthlink.net](mailto:sfoceanedge@earthlink.net); [jonathan.pearlman.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.pearlman.hpc@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Lights on Golden Gate Park Bandshell--from musician who has played there  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:05:19 AM

---

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Dear Concerned People,

I write in opposition to the idea of lights on top of the Golden Gate Park Bandshell. As a musician who has played there, i can tell you with some authority that the money would be much better spent improving the woefully inadequate rest room facilities for performers and transplanting the trees in the audience to provide better sightlines.

San Francisco Opera used to perform their Concert in the Park at the Bandshell every September but for many years has not. You might consult with them about what whould make things better, and also the Golden Gate Park Band.

As for the Ferris wheel--it would be a travesty and a giant source of light pollution, so as a neighborhood resident I would also be opposed.

Best Wishes,

William Klingelhofer, 40 year San Francisco resident  
1638 18th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
415 794 3247



**From:** Robert Hall  
**To:** sfoceanedge@earthlink.net; aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com; dianematsuda@hotmail.com; Black, Kate (CPC); Foley, Chris (CPC); RSEJohns@yahoo.com; jonathan.pearlman.hpc@gmail.com; So, Lydia (CPC); Taylor, Michelle (CPC); Ionin, Jonas (CPC)  
**Cc:** musicconcourse@earthlink.net  
**Subject:** Please oppose Music Concourse lighting and the Giant Ferris Wheel  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 11:57:32 AM

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It's almost like San Francisco Recreation and Parks General Manager Phil Ginsburg is trolling the environmental community. I mean, who could oppose a fun ferris wheel for kids? Well, we want kids to have fun and there's plenty to be had in Golden Gate Park already. Of greater concern is why is a city official proposing a massive structure with lights beaming brightly until 10pm? The Board of Supervisors signed the biodiversity resolution that's supposed to steer the city in a more sustainable direction:

<https://sfenvironment.org/policy/resolution-adopting-citywide-biodiversity-goals>

Why add to the bright lights problem that is hastening the insect apocalypse, and thus, eliminating food for birds?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/nov/22/light-pollution-insect-apocalypse>

Why blast lighting to confuse migrating birds when North America has already lost three billion birds?

<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/19/762090471/north-america-has-lost-3-billion-birds-scientists-say>

The city has signed bird-safe standards for buildings. What's the point of making policies if our city managers ignore them?

<https://sfplanning.org/standards-bird-safe-buildings>

San Francisco can do better. San Francisco has to do better. We are supposed to be an environmental leader for the rest of the country. Instead we have to waste time entertaining vainglorious P.T. Barum-esque proposals to fulfill an urge for \$18 not-so-cheap thrills.

Please oppose this proposal. If you need better ideas to get kids active in parks during the 150th Anniversary of Golden Gate Park, I would be happy to brainstorm them with you.

Bob Hall  
1946 Grove St. Apt. 6  
San Francisco, CA 94117



**From:** Nancy B.Ream  
**To:** [aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com](mailto:aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com); [dianematsuda@hotmail.com](mailto:dianematsuda@hotmail.com); [jonathan.pearlman@gmail.com](mailto:jonathan.pearlman@gmail.com); [Foley, Chris \(CPC\)](#); [Taylor, Michelle \(CPC\)](#); [Black, Kate \(CPC\)](#); [rsfjohns@yahoo.com](mailto:rsfjohns@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Please protect the Music Concourse  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2020 8:25:25 PM

---

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To The President and All the Members of the Historic Preservation Commission:

I am concerned about the protection of the beauty and heritage of the Music Concourse of Golden Gate Park, should a 140 foot, lighted ferris wheel and additional lighting be installed in that same area, for any period of time.

Please help protect this treasured area of the city from these incursions.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Ream, home owner  
3385 Clay Street  
San Francisco, CA 94118



**From:** Linda Shaffer  
**To:** Taylor, Michelle (CPC)  
**Subject:** Proposal to install lighted "Observation Wheel" as part of GGP 150th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 1:16:41 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Commissioner:

I write to strongly object to the proposal to install a lighted "observation wheel" in the Music Concourse (or indeed, anywhere in the park) as part of the year long Golden Gate Park 150th Anniversary Celebration.

Disturbing (and probably killing) birds, bats, and insects, adding a noisy generator that runs until 10 PM every night (possibly spewing noxious exhaust into the air during those hours), and disturbing neighbors and museum goers with the noise from people and added bright lighting are a most inappropriate way to celebrate the existence of a park which was created in large part to be a peaceful haven for people and nature in the midst of a noisy, bustling city.

What's next? Shooting off cannons? Nightly fireworks? Is Golden Gate Park trying to become Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens?

I cannot fathom why the Recreation and Park Commission approved this project. At the very least, it should have required that an Environmental Impact Report be prepared. (In addition to all the possible impacts noted above, where are all the people who come to enjoy the extra "added attraction" going to park?). Furthermore, as is pointed out in the Sierra Club letter, according to the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, "*Lighting [in the park] is for safety purposes and is not intended to increase night use.*" This is a city whose Supervisors recently approved a Biodiversity Resolution. The Commission should be ashamed of itself.

Please act to do what the Recreation and Park Commission should have done — JUST SAY NO! This cannot possibly be an appropriate use of an historic city landmark or a suitable way to celebrate its founding.

Thank you,  
Linda J. Shaffer  
San Francisco CA  
Member, SF Park Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee (PROSAC), 2008-2017  
Concerned citizen





**ROBERT W. CHERNY**  
**PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY**

San Francisco State University  
Home Address: 1462 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
e-mail: robt.cherny@gmail.com  
Home Phone: 415.665.2868

January 13, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Commissioners:

It's unlikely that I'll be able to attend the HPC meeting on Wednesday. I had some surgery on Thursday of last week and am still recuperating.

Your agenda item 10 is a staff report recommending approval of a giant ferris wheel in the Music Concourse. I was a member of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Committee in 2005 when we reviewed, discussed, amended, and approved the nomination of the Music Concourse as an Historic District.

I tried to find the final document that we approved, but if it is online the Planning Department website does an effective job of hiding it. I did find a copy of the nomination, without its appendices, and I'm attaching it to this message since there was no link to it in your agenda. You will note, on page 4, that the boundaries of the historic district include and extend beyond the area that is proposed to be occupied by the giant wheel.

I want to draw your attention especially to the following statement on p. 17:

the general feeling of the Music Concourse as a late 19th century and early 20th century landscape should be preserved. Those features which were created in 1928 and earlier are harmonious in their materials and detailing, and work very well together. New features, in addition to adding clutter, would be very unlikely to harmonize with the older features, and should not be allowed.

Let me emphasize: ***New features, in addition to adding clutter, would be very unlikely to harmonize with the older features, and should not be allowed.*** This statement does not differentiate between temporary or permanent new features. I understand it as applying to *all* new features. When the Park Department moved vender carts into the main part of the Music Concourse in 2009, this was determined to be inappropriate, even though the carts were "temporary." Instead, such "new features" and their accompanying "clutter" are now located *behind* the Spreckels Temple of Music, where they are not visible from the main part of the Music Concourse.

The nomination also indicates that the Music Concourse district is an *historic landscape*, in which individual historic elements work together to create a complex whole. The document before you states, "The proposed work will not impair the essential form and integrity of the Music Course [sic] landscape." In considering this statement, please look carefully at the top image on Attachment 1, page 2, which shows the Music Concourse landscape from a position some twenty feet or so in front of the Spreckels Temple of Music, looking toward the Francis Scott Key monument and the trees behind it, with an arrow designating the location of the giant



wheel. This view corridor is part of what is described in the landmark nomination on page 3: "The feeling of the Music Concourse as a district of fine outdoor art surrounding an outdoor performance space has been preserved. Accordingly, the district retains integrity of feeling." Now look at the top image in Attachment 1, p. 7, which shows the proposed wheel completely dwarfing the Key monument and the trees behind it. Note too that you are *not* presented with a rendering showing the same view corridor as on page 3 with the giant wheel in place, as it would be clear that it completely alters the "the feeling of the Music Concourse as a district of fine outdoor art" and completely alters the historic landscape.

I must say that I was slightly amused to see the wheel described as an "observation wheel." We should all be clear that this is simply a larger version of a carnival ride. Anyone wanting a view of the city from that height can have it, free, at the De Young Museum. The proposal notes that there was a similar ride at the Mid-Winter Fair. It was called the Firth Wheel, a copy of the Ferris Wheel that had been a popular amusement ride at the Chicago exposition the year before. The Firth Wheel, along with the other amusements, were located a short distance away from the Grand Court of the exposition, which is now the Music Concourse, so as not to compete with the cultural and scientific displays.

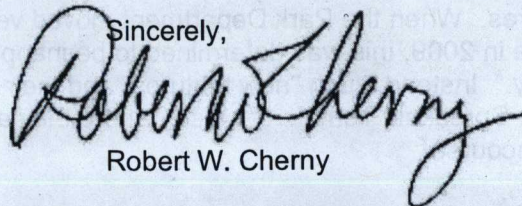
I found no indication in the proposal that the sponsors considered any other location for their giant wheel. I strongly suggest that you encourage them to do so. I would suggest that it be placed behind the bleachers at Big Rec, where there is adequate space and which would provide similar views to those in the Music Concourse. There is no reason why this attraction must be located in the Music Concourse.

I note that the proposal makes no mention of the Park Band, which offers Sunday afternoon concerts in the Spreckels Temple of Music from late April through early October. The nomination for the historic district notes (pp. 5-7) the historical significance of the Park Band. How will the giant wheel affect the band concerts? Will its motor overpower the band? Will there be recorded music when the wheel is running, in the way that carnival ferris wheels sometimes operate?

Finally, I note that construction is to begin within two months. That suggests that the decision has already been made, and that you are being asked to rubber stamp it. I encourage you *not* to do so.

Thank you for attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert W. Cherny". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" and last name "Cherny" clearly legible. The middle initial "W." is smaller and less distinct.

Robert W. Cherny



**From:** Ionin, Jonas (CPC)  
**To:** Taylor, Michelle (CPC)  
**Cc:** Feliciano, Josephine (CPC)  
**Subject:** FW: One more document re the Music Concourse  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:44:53 AM  
**Attachments:** Landmark Leg - Attach. F - submitted to BOS.pdf

---

Jonas P. Ionin,  
Director of Commission Affairs

Planning Department|City & County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103  
Direct: 415-558-6309|Fax: 415-558-6409

[jonas.ionin@sfgov.org](mailto:jonas.ionin@sfgov.org)  
[www.sfplanning.org](http://www.sfplanning.org)

---

**From:** Robert Cherny <robt.cherny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:16 AM  
**To:** Ionin, Jonas (CPC) <jonas.ionin@sfgov.org>; Aaron Hyland <aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com>; dianematsuda@hotmail.com; Black, Kate (CPC) <kate.black@sfgov.org>; Foley, Chris (CPC) <chris.foley@sfgov.org>; RSE.Johns@yahoo.com; Jonathan Pearlman <jonathan.pearlman.hpc@gmail.com>; So, Lydia (CPC) <lydia.so@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** One more document re the Music Concourse

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear commissioners,

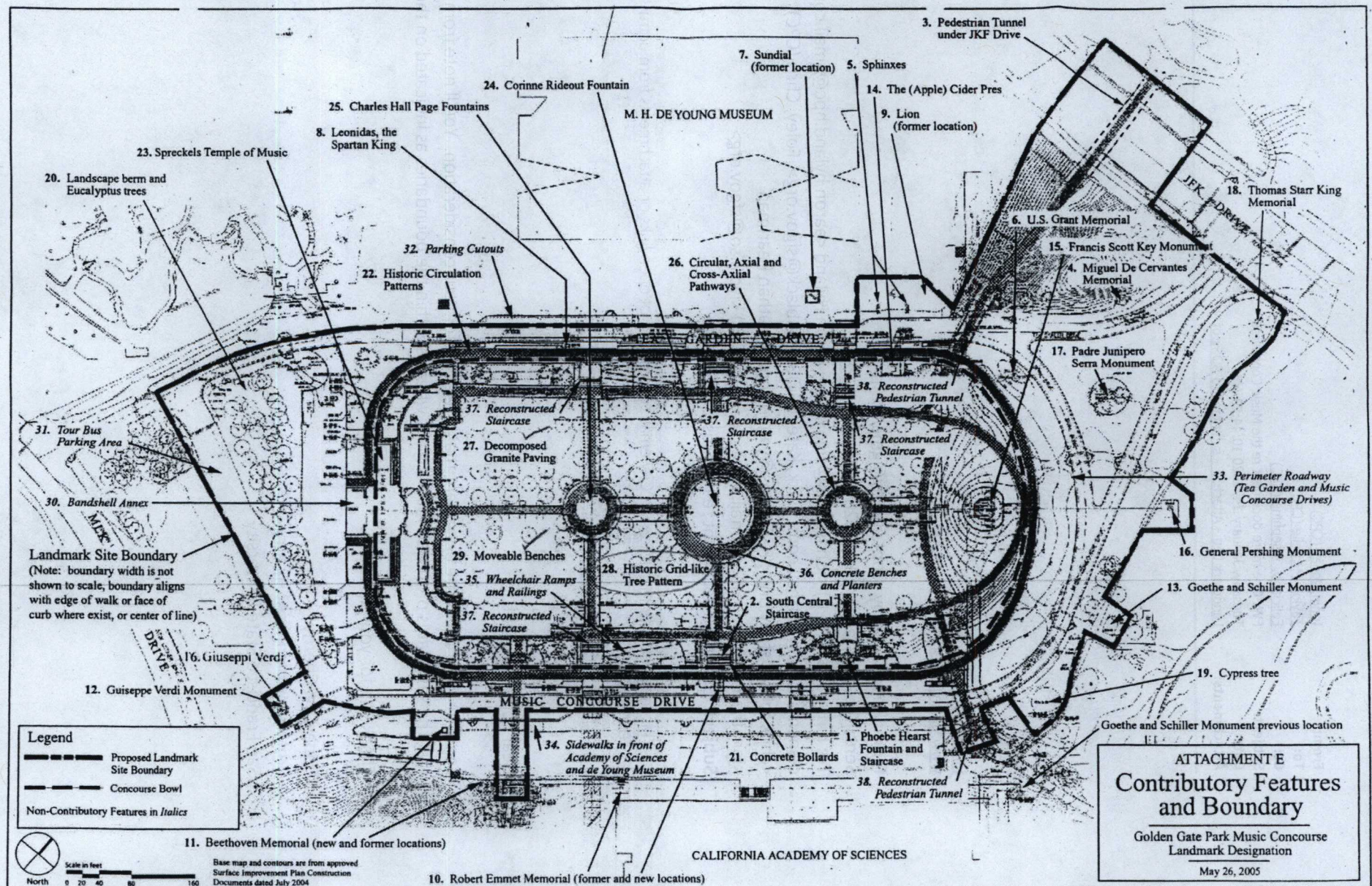
I am attaching one more document that is relevant for your consideration. You'll note from the map that the site that is proposed for the giant wheel is within the boundaries as indicated on the map.

Thank you for your attention.

Robert W. Cherny  
Professor *emeritus* of History  
San Francisco State University



From Clark of The Board





**Attachment F**  
(Planning Commission Recommendation – June 16, 2005)

**List of Contributory and Non-Contributory Features for Incorporation into the Landmark Designation Ordinance for the Music Concourse**

Page 1 of 2

**Contributory Features**

The contributory and non-contributory features are marked on the accompanying Landmark Boundary Map (Attachment E). The numbers below are also used on the map and thus they are sequential.

**Contributory Features within the Boundaries of the Music Concourse Landmark Site (Landmark Site is represented by a heavy solid line):**

1. Phoebe Hearst Fountain and Staircase (1927)
2. South Central Staircase
3. Pedestrian Tunnel Under JFK Drive, 1897;
4. Miguel De Cervantes Memorial, 1916;
5. Sphinxes, 1928 (may be recast using a mold created a few years previously to 2005);
6. U.S. Grant Memorial, 1896;
7. Sundial, 1907 (altered base and possible new location);
8. Leonidas, the Spartan King, 1893 (historic location);
9. Lion, 1906 (moved to new location);
10. Robert Emmet Memorial, 1919 (altered base, new location);
11. Ludwig Van Beethoven Monument, 1915 (new location);
12. Guiseppe Verdi Monument, 1914;
13. Goethe and Schiller Monument, 1901 (new location);
14. The (Apple) Cider Press, 1894;
15. Francis Scott Key Monument, 1908;
16. General John J. Pershing Monument, 1922;
17. Padre Junipero Serra Monument, 1907;
18. Thomas Starr King Memorial, 1903;
19. Cypress tree near the southeast corner of the Music Concourse area;
20. Landscape berm or hill-and Eucalyptus trees behind the Spreckels Temple of Music;
21. Concrete Bollards (two original still remain at the top of South Central Staircase); and
22. Configuration and historical existence of historic circulation patterns (vehicular and pedestrian) around the Music Concourse area.

**Contributory Features Specifically within the Concourse Bowl (Concourse Bowl area is represented by a heavy dotted-line):**

23. Spreckels Temple of Music, 1899;
24. Corinne Rideout Fountain, 1924;
25. Charles Page Fountains, 1914;
26. Circular, Axial, and Cross-Axial Pathways;
27. Decomposed granite paving surface;
28. The layout of trees in the historic grid-like pattern, which enforces the main axis and cross axes of the Concourse Bowl and forms an architectural definition of the space. The trees are pollarded so that each tree has a candelabra shape. Together, the trees



**From:** Marta Lindsey  
**To:** CPC-Commissions Secretary; Taylor, Michelle (CPC)  
**Subject:** Support for Observation Wheel in Golden Gate Park.  
**Date:** Monday, January 13, 2020 4:49:55 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

I'm the author of the forthcoming books *Golden Gate Park: An A to Z Adventure* and *Golden Gate Park ABCs*.

I'm writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Observation Wheel.

In writing these books, I have done extensive research on Golden Gate Park. The Observation Wheel is such a fun and historically fitting way to bring a temporary, special element to the park to celebrate its 150th.

The Park's history includes, of course, the World's Fair of 1894. The Fair brought so many spectacular installations to wow park visitors (including a ferris wheel), and this will certainly do the same.

I am all about getting more kids into Golden Gate Park and seeing its many sides. I am especially excited for children to experience the Observation Wheel, which will be a truly unique experience they will likely never forget. The Wheel will be a portal to the past, as well as a brand-new experience -- how wonderful!

Sincerely,  
Marta Lindsey

--

**Marta Lindsey**  
**Nonprofit Communications Consultant | Children's Author | Writer**

617.833.7654

[www.linkedin.com/in/martalindsey](http://www.linkedin.com/in/martalindsey)

[www.martalindsey.com](http://www.martalindsey.com)

Twitter @MartaHLindsey



01/06/2020

William Appleby  
Apt. #304  
755 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
San Francisco, Ca 94118

S.F. Planning Department  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1650 Mission St.  
San Francisco, Ca 94103

**RE: 2019-022126C0A 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Certificate of Appropriateness Observation Wheel.**

Dear Commissioners;

I have lived in the Inner Richmond District for many years. Golden Gate Park has been the highlight of that experience. I find the proposal for this 150 foot tall oversized carnival ride totally inappropriate for honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> year of our Park.

The generator to power it will in addition to being a scenic degrading of the Music Concourse, will create pollution of the air with fossil fuel combustion generating CO<sub>2</sub>, PM, VOCs as well as noise pollution.

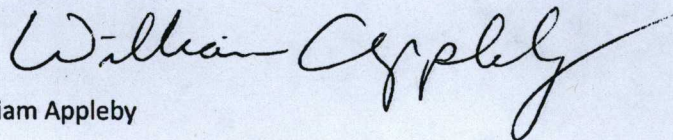
The "Wheel" itself is oversized for the site, towering over even the highest tower of the de Young Museum. Height Zoning for the surrounding communities is 40 feet. This 150 foot structure will be a visible eyesore and generate light pollution during hours of darkness throughout the neighborhoods.

The music concourse already honors the Park, Citizens and visitors with its Art, Science and Music. The concourse is a place of landscaped beauty an escape which will be degraded by the noise, fumes and ugliness of this carnival ride. I fear it will continue past the one year timeline.

To truly honor the sesquicentennial (*noun 1880*) of the Golden Gate Park we should return to the original intent of the Park as a place on the human scale free from the noise and distraction of the City.

What would John McLaren say?

Sincerely,



William Appleby

C.C. Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer

San Francisco Chronicle



**From:** Pinky Kushner  
**To:** So, Lydia (CPC); jonathan.pearlman.hpc@gmail.com; RSEJohns@yahoo.com; Foley, Chris (CPC); Black, Kate (CPC); dianematsuda@hotmail.com; aaron.hyland.hpc@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Ionin, Jonas (CPC); Taylor, Michelle (CPC)  
**Subject:** Ferris Wheel Project-CITY STAFF: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE BEFORE TODAY'S HEARING  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 15, 2020 9:44:24 AM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

COMMISSIONERS, PLEASE READ BEFORE TODAY'S MEETING.

Greetings Commissioners,

I thank you for your service to the City and County of San Francisco. It is your love for our City that propels you into caring for its history and preservation.

I write to you today to beg you to question the proposed Ferris Wheel Project for the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park.

This project is not within keeping of the Park as a historical structure. It's not just the wheel that is the problem---it's the lights and the congestion, in other words the consequences of the wheel. Such a project might be suitable elsewhere, but this is a park. Moreover, the Music Concourse itself has historical preservation status. The LED lights that are proposed, many to be on day and night, are not in keeping with this historical status. It's equivalent of turning a section of the Park into some sort of Times Square---until 10 PM! As though 10 PM was not night time!

Please preserve the treasure of Golden Gate Park's Music Concourse. Encourage the RPD to move this project elsewhere in the City and to re-image a more suitable celebration for the Concourse., sans LEDs. Music in the bandshell in the afternoons would be wonderful.

Sincerely,

Pinky Kushner  
1362 6th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
510 459-8289



**From:** Drew Becher  
**To:** [CPC-Commissions Secretary; Taylor, Michelle \(CPC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Observation Wheel for Golden Gate Park 150th Anniversary  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6:25:54 PM

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This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Commissioners,

As CEO of San Francisco Parks Alliance, the co-organizing partner for Golden Gate Park's 150th Anniversary. The San Francisco Parks Alliance represents thousands of park loving individuals across all San Francisco's neighborhoods. I'm writing to express our organization's enthusiastic support for the temporary installation of the Observation Wheel in Golden Gate Park's Music Concourse.

The Wheel is an anchor element to our year-long celebration of the park. The Observation Wheel will attract a host of visitors to Golden Gate Park in its 150th year. It will excite the park's 23+ million visitors with a new once-in-a-lifetime attraction and enthruse those who don't frequent the park to include Golden Gate Park in their itinerary for the year. This celebration will bring San Francisco communities together to be a part of an amazing tribute to Golden Gate Park and celebrate the many attractions within the Park's 1,017 acres that are available to everybody young and old.

We have been monitoring the chatter on Nextdoor and so many people are talking about how cool and unique this whole experience will be for the city. Thank you for your support of this exciting place-making activity in honor of the park's sesquicentennial.

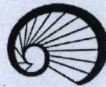
Sincerely,  
Drew Becher

**Drew Becher**  
**CEO**  
E: [drew@sfparksalliance.org](mailto:drew@sfparksalliance.org)  
1074 Folsom Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103  
Mobile: (646) 957-5991

**[Celebrate the Holidays with a Parks Alliance Membership!](#)**

**[Learn more about how your support transformed the City in our 2019 Impact Report.](#)**





*San Francisco Public Library*  
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 - 4733

January 15, 2020

Commissioners  
Historic Preservation Commission  
1650 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of San Francisco Public Library and its longstanding Summer Stride Committee, I write to express support for the Observation Wheel to be installed in the Music Concourse as part of Golden Gate Park's 150th birthday celebration. San Francisco Public Library is a community partner in the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration and the observation wheel will be a key attraction this year to the Library's summer learning program.

The library summer learning program, Summer Stride, aims to prevent the academic slide that so many K-12 students face during the summer by encouraging students and families to keep up with their academic skills by reading, learning, and visiting their neighborhood public library, all summer long. This encouragement comes in many forms but one of the most effective is having dedicated incentives and prizes at each of our 28 neighborhood libraries.

Thanks to the partnership with the Parks, the Library will be receiving tickets to the Observation Wheel for each branch library, and these tickets are sure to be a very attractive prize for our summer learners. The prizes offered through Summer Stride enable all families, no matter their income level, to enjoy unique events and attractions in San Francisco such as the Observation Wheel.

The wheel is an embodiment of the joy the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration will bring to San Franciscans. Summer Stride is also about bringing the joy of reading and learning to our community. I hope your support will enable the Observation Wheel to become a reality this year.

Sincerely,

Michelle Jeffers  
Chief of Community Programs & Partnerships  
San Francisco Public Library





Received at HPC Hearing 1/15/20

M. Taylor

**ROBERT W. CHERNY**  
**PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF HISTORY**

San Francisco State University  
Home Address: 1462 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
e-mail: robt.cherny@gmail.com  
Home Phone: 415.665.2868

January 13, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission

Dear Commissioners:

It's unlikely that I'll be able to attend the HPC meeting on Wednesday. I had some surgery on Thursday of last week and am still recuperating.

Your agenda item 10 is a staff report recommending approval of a giant ferris wheel in the Music Concourse. I was a member of the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Committee in 2005 when we reviewed, discussed, amended, and approved the nomination of the Music Concourse as an Historic District.

I tried to find the final document that we approved, but if it is online the Planning Department website does an effective job of hiding it. I did find a copy of the nomination, without its appendices, and I'm attaching it to this message since there was no link to it in your agenda. You will note, on page 4, that the boundaries of the historic district include and extend beyond the area that is proposed to be occupied by the giant wheel.

I want to draw your attention especially to the following statement on p. 17:

the general feeling of the Music Concourse as a late 19th century and early 20th century landscape should be preserved. Those features which were created in 1928 and earlier are harmonious in their materials and detailing, and work very well together. New features, in addition to adding clutter, would be very unlikely to harmonize with the older features, and should not be allowed.

Let me emphasize: ***New features, in addition to adding clutter, would be very unlikely to harmonize with the older features, and should not be allowed.*** This statement does not differentiate between temporary or permanent new features. I understand it as applying to ***all*** new features. When the Park Department moved vender carts into the main part of the Music Concourse in 2009, this was determined to be inappropriate, even though the carts were "temporary." Instead, such "new features" and their accompanying "clutter" are now located *behind* the Spreckels Temple of Music, where they are not visible from the main part of the Music Concourse.

The nomination also indicates that the Music Concourse district is an *historic landscape*, in which individual historic elements work together to create a complex whole. The document before you states, "The proposed work will not impair the essential form and integrity of the Music Course [sic] landscape." In considering this statement, please look carefully at the top image on Attachment 1, page 2, which shows the Music Concourse landscape from a position some twenty feet or so in front of the Spreckels Temple of Music, looking toward the Francis Scott Key monument and the trees behind it, with an arrow designating the location of the giant



wheel. This view corridor is part of what is described in the landmark nomination on page 3: "The feeling of the Music Concourse as a district of fine outdoor art surrounding an outdoor performance space has been preserved. Accordingly, the district retains integrity of feeling." Now look at the top image in Attachment 1, p. 7, which shows the proposed wheel completely dwarfing the Key monument and the trees behind it. Note too that you are *not* presented with a rendering showing the same view corridor as on page 3 with the giant wheel in place, as it would be clear that it completely alters the "the feeling of the Music Concourse as a district of fine outdoor art" and completely alters the historic landscape.

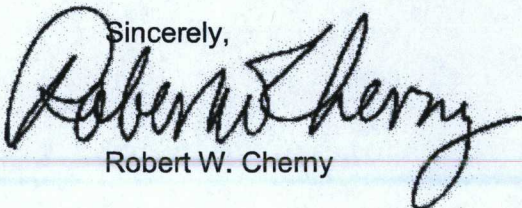
I must say that I was slightly amused to see the wheel described as an "observation wheel." We should all be clear that this is simply a larger version of a carnival ride. Anyone wanting a view of the city from that height can have it, free, at the De Young Museum. The proposal notes that there was a similar ride at the Mid-Winter Fair. It was called the Firth Wheel, a copy of the Ferris Wheel that had been a popular amusement ride at the Chicago exposition the year before. The Firth Wheel, along with the other amusements, were located a short distance away from the Grand Court of the exposition, which is now the Music Concourse, so as not to compete with the cultural and scientific displays.

I found no indication in the proposal that the sponsors considered any other location for their giant wheel. I strongly suggest that you encourage them to do so. I would suggest that it be placed behind the bleachers at Big Rec, where there is adequate space and which would provide similar views to those in the Music Concourse. There is no reason why this attraction must be located in the Music Concourse.

I note that the proposal makes no mention of the Park Band, which offers Sunday afternoon concerts in the Spreckels Temple of Music from late April through early October. The nomination for the historic district notes (pp. 5-7) the historical significance of the Park Band. How will the giant wheel affect the band concerts? Will its motor overpower the band? Will there be recorded music when the wheel is running, in the way that carnival ferris wheels sometimes operate?

Finally, I note that construction is in begin within two months. That suggests that the decision has already been made, and that you are being asked to rubber stamp it. I encourage you *not* to do so.

Thank you for attention.

Sincerely,  
  
Robert W. Cherny





## Friends of the Music Concourse (c)

Dedicated to the Preservation  
of the Historic Golden Gate Park  
Music Concourse

January 14, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission  
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 2019-022126COA: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed Lighted Observation wheel and Bandshell in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland and Commissioners,

Friends of the Music Concourse was established at the time that a garage was proposed for the Music Concourse Bowl in Golden Gate Park [the Park.] Part of that proposal included cutting down all of the pollarded trees in the Music Concourse in order to build the garage under the Bowl. Fortunately, public outrage was aroused at the possible loss of the beloved 100-year-old trees and the other historic features. The trees were saved, the historic design was preserved, and the area was landmarked to protect this remarkable historic asset from future degradation. However, there are always temptations to look at parkland and park facilities and view them as opportunities for development or producing income, ignoring that the projects proposed might be detrimental to the very parkland that attracts the public in the first place.

Friends of the Music Concourse is very concerned about the current proposal to place a lighted observation wheel in the Music Concourse for one year and to light the Music Concourse Bandshell, as well as installing 19 searchlights on the roof of the Bandshell. We will examine the possible impacts to both the Concourse and to Golden Gate Park in this letter.

**GGP is historically a landscape park, not an amusement park or a carnival.**

The Recreation and Park website lists the natural beauty of the Park first in its list of the Park's characteristics.

"Golden Gate Park is known primarily for its naturalistic beauty. From a vast, windswept expanse of sand dunes, park engineer William Hammond Hall and master gardener John McLaren carved out an oasis—a verdant, horticulturally diverse, and picturesque public space where city dwellers can relax and reconnect with the natural world. The rest, as they say, is history." <sup>1</sup>

The National Register designation describes it as a "*green oasis in a sea of urbanization.*" <sup>2</sup> It further states that,

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Recreation and Park Website, <https://sfrecpark.org/destination/golden-gate-park/>

<sup>2</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 1.

\* \* \* \* \*



*"Golden Gate Park was conceived as a naturalistic pleasure ground park to provide a sylvan retreat from urban pressures for all citizens, rich and poor."* <sup>3</sup>

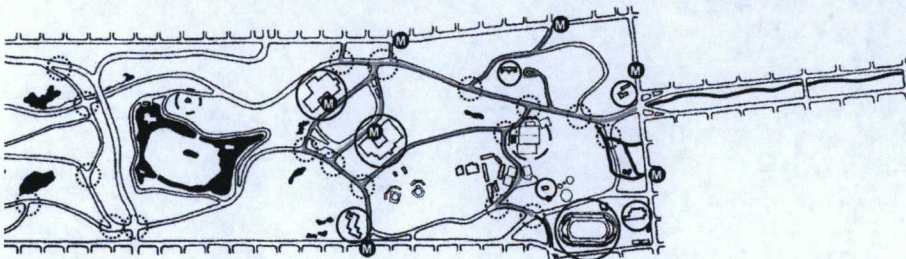
**Over the years, Golden Gate Park has both experienced and resisted intense development.**

The 1998 Golden Gate Park Master Plan (Master Plan) describes the intent of designer William Hammond Hall to lay out a park that was, for the most part, a wild and natural landscape west of Strawberry Hill, and, for the most part, open to human activity in the eastern section. However, the intent was always to have all activities take place in a park setting, and to continue to provide a landscape park experience for residents. The Master Plan shows that much development has taken place over the years, as more and more built facilities have been added to the Park and more and more landscape has been lost.

"Now in its second century, the park is facing new and growing challenges. Most of these are the result of the growth and change of the City around the park. The kind of vision that was required to create the park from barren sand dunes is also needed today to preserve and enhance the park to ensure that it will continue to serve future generations. This Master Plan for Golden Gate Park attempts to provide that vision and lay the groundwork for its preservation and enhancement into the next century." <sup>4</sup>

**In the Department of Recreation and Park's own planning guide, the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, lighting is intended to be limited in Golden Gate Park overall and in the Music Concourse specifically.**

Lighting of Golden Gate Park, including the Music Concourse, is intended to be primarily for "use and safety considerations." <sup>5</sup> It is not intended to increase night use. This map from the Golden Gate Park Master Plan (1998) shows the only areas that may be lighted under the Recreation and Park Department's own guidelines. In the Music Concourse area specifically, the de Young Museum and the California Academy of Sciences are the only areas that are designated as "night use areas." The rest of the Music Concourse and the Bandshell are not even designated as "potential night use areas." <sup>6</sup>



**Legend**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| ○ Night use areas                           | — Primary access roads and adjacent paths to night use areas (highest priority) |
| ⊖ Potential night use areas                 | — Path access to night use areas (highest priority)                             |
| ⊘ Important intersections (medium priority) | Ⓜ MUNI stops serving night use areas  |

9-5 Lighting Plan, GGPMP <sup>7</sup>

<sup>3</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 1.

<sup>4</sup> Introduction, "Golden Gate Park Master Plan," 1998. Page 1-1.

<sup>5</sup> Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

<sup>6</sup> Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

<sup>7</sup> Lighting Plan, Golden Gate Park Master Plan, 1998. Page 9-5.

\* \* \* \* \*



The cumulative impact of a lighted observation wheel and adding extensive lighting and spotlights to the Bandshell is being ignored by submitting separate Certificates of Appropriateness.

The Department of Recreation and Park has decided to present the COA for the Observation wheel and the one for the Bandshell lighting to the HPC in two separate meetings. The artificial nighttime lighting created by these two projects will have a cumulative impact on the Music Concourse and on Golden Gate Park, and those impacts should be considered together in that context.

What will be the extent of lighting the Bandshell? How will events here add to the impact on the Park from large concerts and other events?

Will there be a large number of lighted concerts in the Bandshell in the evenings? How does this correlate with the Recreation and Park's previously stated determination to limit large events in Golden Gate Park over a year's time? Will the Department be eliminating or cutting back on such events as Hardly Strictly Bluegrass or the Outside Lands Festival? The many festivals bring enormous crowds into the parkland and impact it not only through the crowds that trample the parkland but also through the all-night lighting that is installed for protection of equipment and security of the performance areas.

Lighted observation wheel and intense lighting for Bandshell are not appropriate for the Music Concourse or for Golden Gate Park

The introduction of the lighted observation wheel and the intense lighting proposed for the Bandshell will change the Music Concourse from the classic outdoor performance space it was established to be when laid out in 1895, into a space with more of a carnival atmosphere. Golden Gate Park as a whole was conceived as a naturalistic pleasure ground park to provide a sylvan retreat from urban pressures for all citizens, rich and poor. The parkland has evolved into a space in which wildlife has also found a refuge and a home. With increased development, there is a point at which both wildlife habitat and the sense of parkland will be lost. All that will be left if a series of amusements with a few trees interspersed in between, to remind us that this was once a great landscape park.

An observation wheel is not a historic feature of the Music Concourse

The Midwinter Fair ferris wheel was in the Park for less than a year. It was removed at the end of the Fair, along with the majority of elements that had been imposed on the Park for the Midwinter Fair, over the objections of many.<sup>8</sup>

The National Register contains three full pages of lists of Individual Park Resources in Golden Gate Park.<sup>9</sup> The ferris wheel from the Mid-Winter Exposition is not on that list.

The City landmarking (249) does not list a ferris wheel as either contributing or non-contributing.

The current proposal is therefore for a non-contributing element that will be located in the Music Concourse longer than even the original ferris wheel.

Protecting habitat and biodiversity are part of the Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) but are not mentioned in detail the COA application

The COA does not quote all of Objective 4 from the ROSE. Policy statements about the importance of protecting biodiversity and wildlife are left out of the COA:

**"OBJECTIVE 4**

**PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE BIODIVERSITY, HABITAT VALUE, AND ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY OF OPEN SPACES AND ENCOURAGE SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT OF OUR OPEN SPACE SYSTEM**

*San Francisco is a heavily urbanized city, which nonetheless has a rich variety of plant and animal communities. Among these are coastal scrub, grassland, oak woodlands, marsh, and*

<sup>8</sup> Clary, Raymond H. "The Making of Golden Gate Park, 1865-1906." Page 112 - 113.

<sup>9</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, pages 3- 5.



*stream-side habitats and their associated wildlife. Some of these habitats hold species found nowhere outside of the Bay Area. The City also has significant landscaped areas, such as conifer plantings in Golden Gate Park. **By providing food and shelter for migratory and resident birds, butterflies, and insects they too play a major role in supporting San Francisco's biodiversity. Biodiversity includes the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur. Maintaining biodiversity requires genetic diversity, species diversity, and habitat diversity. San Francisco can be a leader in creating new and more sustainable open spaces by ensuring that all open spaces, including new and renovated park spaces, are developed in a way that enhances and works with local biodiversity.*** "

" POLICY 4.1

*Preserve, protect and restore local biodiversity.*

*" . . . The City should employ appropriate management practices to maintain a healthy and resilient ecosystem which preserves and protects plant and wildlife habitat . . . " <sup>10</sup>*

The ROSE is very specific about protecting wildlife from artificial lighting. This information is also left out of the COA.

POLICY 4.3

*Integrate the protection and restoration of local biodiversity into open space construction, renovation, management and maintenance.*

*Lighting. **Park lighting should be environmentally efficient and provide safety and security to park users, while being as limited as possible in order to protect wildlife in natural areas from the impacts of light pollution.*** <sup>11</sup>

**Environmental organizations have submitted letters of concern about these projects**

Many organizations have written to your commission about the negative impact of the proposed projects on the wildlife and biodiversity present in - and migrating over - Golden Gate Park and the Music Concourse. Please refer to the attached letters from the Sierra Club, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Raptors Are The Solution, and Coyote Yipps. Comments include:

" . . . we believe that this installation will have significant negative impacts on migratory and nesting birds as well as other wildlife. Due to these potential impacts, as well as potential impacts to "dark skies", we ask that a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be prepared before any permit or other approval is considered." Sierra Club, 1-7-20.

" . . . The proposed 150' structure in the midst of the park poses a threat to birds flying through the park and the artificial light poses an additional risk. . . . " Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1-3-20.

" . . . We believe the proposed structure will pose a threat to raptors and other birds flying through the park: The glass and artificial light could very possibly confuse and disorient them, resulting in collisions and mortality." Raptors Are The Solution, 1-7-20

" . . . Not only will this project — the construction and even more so, the final project — be disruptive to wildlife in the area through bright lights and noise, but it's also going in the opposite direction to what most people want for our park. . . . " Coyote Yipps.

**This proposal has already been heard and voted on at the Recreation and Park Commission - before bringing it to the Historic Preservation Commission** <sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> [https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation\\_OpenSpace\\_Element\\_ADOPTED.pdf](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation_OpenSpace_Element_ADOPTED.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation\\_OpenSpace\\_Element\\_ADOPTED.pdf](https://generalplan.sfplanning.org/Recreation_OpenSpace_Element_ADOPTED.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> SF Recreation and Park Commission, December 19, 2019, [www.sfgovtv.org](http://www.sfgovtv.org), video on demand.



The Recreation and Park Commission approved this project on December 19th, 2019, before the HPC's hearing. This has happened with other projects. The preservation commissioners have asked in the past, and RPC has agreed, that the HPC should be notified and given the opportunity to hear, evaluate, and approve or propose mitigations before the issues are presented to the RPC.

Therefore, if the RPC has agreed to a contract without the HPC's approval, that is their responsibility and should not affect your decision about this project.

Golden Gate Park is already stressed with the number of visitors that enter the Park every year.

According to the Department of Recreation and Park website, Golden Gate Park has more than 13 million visitors each year.<sup>13</sup> Having a large number of visitors brings wear and tear to the parkland and stress to the wildlife living in it. It is unfortunate that a choice is being made to highlight the park by adding artificial lighting to such an extent that it detracts from the landscape qualities, compromises habitat, and threatens wildlife.

What reassurance does the public have that all of the structures and lighting would be removed completely at the end of the celebration?

Not everyone feels the same way about protecting parkland, as both gardener John McLaren and designer William Hammond Hall observed. What reassurance can we have that ALL of the structures and ALL of the lighting will be completely removed immediately after the end of the celebration, and that the Park and Bandshell will not be damaged in the process of either set-up or breakdown of the equipment.

"It's a perfectly horrible way to ruin the natural beauty which is the essence of Golden Gate Park."

In conclusion, I will quote from the second eloquent letter sent by Coyote Yipps,

*"Again, I am asking you to OPPOSE this plan. It's a perfectly horrible way to ruin the natural beauty which is the essence of Golden Gate Park with its trees, vegetation, old carved stone structures, and all the wonderful wildlife there. In fact, it will interfere with wildlife and actually cause stress. Our "wildness" areas are a valuable but vanishing commodity in our modern world where those who want to make a buck are eschewing nature for lights, noise, artificiality and anything else that will bring in money, which is then turned around to pave over more of paradise. Our youth are not going to value nature if there is less and less of it for them to fall in love with."*<sup>14</sup>

Golden Gate Park is more than a collection of individual attractions. As stated in the National Register,

*"it is important to view Golden Gate Park as a whole. Golden Gate Park was developed over many years, but it was conceived as a single creation that we now consider an historic designed landscape."*<sup>15</sup>

Friends of the Music Concourse urges you to deny the Certificate of Appropriateness for both the Observation Wheel and the lighting of the Bandshell.

Sincerely,

Katherine Howard

Katherine Howard, ASLA

Co-Chair

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<sup>13</sup> "We're proud to welcome more than 13 million visitors each year to Golden Gate Park, one of San Francisco's greatest treasures" Recreation and Park Department website. <https://sfrecpark.org/destination/golden-gate-park/>

<sup>14</sup> Kessler, Janet. Coyote Yipps, bandshell and spotlights, 1-12-20.

<sup>15</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 2





## San Francisco Bay Chapter

Serving Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin and San Francisco counties

January 7, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission  
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 2019-022126COA: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed Lighted Ferris Wheel and Bandshell in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland,

The Sierra Club has recently learned of the planned installation of a lighted ferris wheel in the Music Concourse in Golden Gate Park [the Park] for the 150th Golden Gate Park Anniversary celebration. Although we appreciate the efforts to bring attention and people into the Park on this occasion, we believe that this installation will have significant negative impacts on migratory and nesting birds as well as other wildlife. Due to these potential impacts, as well as potential impacts to "dark skies", we ask that a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be prepared before any permit or other approval is considered.

Golden Gate Park [the Park] is a world-renowned park, known primarily for its naturalistic beauty. The Historic Register designation describes it as a "*green oasis in a sea of urbanization*." <sup>1</sup> In fact, "*Golden Gate Park was conceived as a naturalistic pleasure ground park to provide a sylvan retreat from urban pressures for all citizens, rich and poor.*" <sup>2</sup> As a result of the vision of the founders of Golden Gate Park and of William Hammond Hall's curvilinear, naturalistic design, millions of people enjoy the Park every year as a landscape. But Golden Gate Park is more than a collection of trees and meadows; it is full of life. The Park has become a haven for wildlife. Hundreds of species of birds have been identified in the park, as well as coyotes, raccoons, skunks, opossum, bats, and even a mountain lion. Surrounded as they are by a bustling, urban environment, these species all

<sup>1</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," OMB No. 1024-0018, United State Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Oct. 15, 2004 certification. Section 7, page 1.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



share the need for night time darkness and periods of quiet in order not only to survive but also to thrive.

Wildlife in our modern times is subject to increasing stress and loss of habitat. Recently new buildings, paving, and artificial turf have been added to the Park; these are obvious causes of loss of habitat. What many people may not be aware of is that adding more people over extended hours, noise, bright lights, and artificial night lighting also has a negative impact on habitat.

Recently, more and more artificial light has been added to Golden Gate Park. The habitat at the western end of the Park has been seriously compromised by the 150,000 watts of stadium lighting at the Beach Chalet artificial turf soccer fields. In the eastern end of the Park, the Park is experiencing a cumulative impact of built projects that are adding lighting. The Conservatory of Flowers now includes an evening light show, the tennis courts are being renovated with new lighting on both courts and paths, and, in addition to the ferris wheel, part of the current proposal is to add additional lighting to the Bandshell.

While the eastern section of the Park is designated as open to lighting in the Golden Gate Park Master Plan, the authors of the Master Plan did not envision anything more than adequate lighting for safety, ingress and egress. In the section on Park Lighting, the Plan states, "*Pedestrian scaled replacement lighting is proposed for selected paths and roads to provide a minimum safety 'beacon' lighting system. . . . Different areas of the park will be lighted to different levels based on amount of use and safety considerations. **Lighting is for safety purposes and is not intended to increase night use.***" <sup>3</sup> [Emphasis added.]

The proposed lighted ferris wheel will be over 140 ft. tall, shining through the surrounding trees and lighting the area. It is planned to be lighted into the evening for an entire year, through the avian nesting and migration seasons. The lights and spinning could be confusing to birds, contributing to bird strikes, injury and death. Artificial light near nests fosters predation of song birds by other species. The lights will be reflected in the sky, especially during the common foggy evenings in this section of San Francisco, further adding to the light around the Music Concourse area. The proposed generator will add noise to the area. Noise also has negative impacts on migratory and nesting birds and other wildlife. We could find no evidence of any environmental analysis of this project, despite the fact that much of this nighttime, lighted activity, will take place during the migration and nesting seasons.

Lighting poles for the Beach Chalet project were lowered by the Department of Recreation and Park from 90 feet to 60 feet, due to the Department feeling that 90 feet was too tall for lighting.

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<sup>3</sup> Golden Gate Park Master Plan," 1998. Page 9-5. <https://sfrecpark.org/about/publications/golden-gate-park-master-plan/>



The ferris wheel is going to have lights up to 143 feet above grade.

There is no information on the intensity of the lights, if they meet Dark Sky standards, or if there is any type of shielding.. In addition, the wheel will be turning. Will the rotating lights be even more confusing to birds, as they try to navigate? Very bright security lights will be lighted from 10:00 p.m. to dawn, further adding to the impact of this lighted structure.

Although surrounded by buildings, the Music Concourse is ideally located for wildlife populations to venture forth, to forage and explore both during the day and at night. The nearby Arboretum with its abundance of native plants and lakes and streams, is a haven for wildlife. Situated less than 1,200 feet away from the proposed ferris wheel, enthusiastic bird watchers have recorded over 170 species in that small area in just the last 10 years. Within the Music Concourse itself, 90 species have been recorded. And 104 species have been identified on the living roof of the California Academy of Sciences.<sup>4</sup>

In 2013, Professors Travis Longcore and Catherine Rich submitted an analysis of the "Effects of Night Lighting from Proposed Beach Chalet Athletic Fields Renovation, San Francisco, California" as part of the CEQA review for that project. It is probable that the sports lighting for the Beach Chalet fields is much more intense than those proposed for the ferris wheel, although without documentation from a lighting expert it is difficult to know the exact measurements. Nevertheless, information from Professor Longcore's analysis is useful in demonstrating some of the impacts that lighting has for the Music Concourse project, as that paper was written specifically for Golden Gate Park.

For example, in "Section 2.2, Light scattering by aerosols," Longcore states, *"Light is scattered by aerosols in the air. These can be dust, pollen, or droplets of water. . . . Anyone who knows the climate of San Francisco is aware of a line that roughly demarcates the foggy western half of the city from the less foggy eastern half. San Francisco as a whole has over 100 days of fog per year, while the western portion, especially the project site, will have more than 100 foggy nights per year (<http://www.currentresults.com/Weather/US/cloud-fog-city-annual.php>). Fog is extremely efficient at reflecting light and the rule of thumb is that it will increase the light reflected from an area by 10–20 times (see attached comments from H. Spoelstra). "*<sup>5</sup>

Longcore's analysis points out other elements that need to be studied before this project is approved. Adding artificial light impacts how active wildlife is, how they forage or roost, and even singing patterns for birds. *"Even if illumination is not appreciably increased, merely seeing the light*

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<sup>4</sup> ebird, bird count figures, <https://ebird.org/hotspots?hs=L1085740&yr=last10&m=>

<sup>5</sup> Longcore, Travis and Rich, Catherine, "Effects of Night Lighting from Proposed Beach Chalet Athletic Fields Renovation, San Francisco, California," page 3. Copy available upon request.



*from the project can influence animal behavior."* <sup>6</sup>

Longcore also points out that a curfew on lights "*does not eliminate impacts.*" For example, "*one species may forage at dusk, another right after dusk, and another in the dark of night . . . In addition, . . . increased illumination, even on a temporary basis, reduces the time available for critical behaviors. . . . If artificial lighting eliminates a significant period of potential breeding time for a species, the long-term consequences will be negative.*" <sup>7</sup>

In addition, the very bright security lights pictured will be lighted from 10:00 p.m. to dawn, so there will be no break in the lighting in this area. We have seen this happen already with the many concerts that take place in Golden Gate Park. At that time, additional lights are brought in that disproportionately light up the roadways and the concert equipment. These lights are often lighted for weeks at a time, further adding to the light pollution in the Park.

We were unable to find, either on the Planning Department permits website or as part of the documentation for the HPC hearing, any information on any environmental assessment of the impact of the cumulative lights and the new structure on dark skies, on wildlife and especially on birds.

With all of the lighting both proposed and already installed in Golden Gate Park, it is perhaps time to do a full analysis of the "*legitimate depictions of the conditions during fog, low cloud cover, and clear sky conditions,*" <sup>8</sup> as Professor Longcore recommended for the Beach Chalet fields, and which was not performed for that project.

In addition to the above concerns, we were surprised that a generator will be used to power the ferris wheel. Sierra Club and the City of San Francisco are moving away from fossil fuels, due to the greenhouse gases produced and the resultant contribution to poor air quality. In addition to the environmental harm and noise that it causes, a diesel generator that is active for long periods of time sends the wrong message to the public that will be gathering to celebrate Golden Gate Park.

Golden Gate Park was created for people to enjoy the nature experience that it provides. Birds and other wildlife have always been a part of the public's enjoyment for as long as the park has been in existence and are as much a part of the historic experience as any of the built features. With the stresses placed on the natural world by increasing population, resource exploitation, and climate change, and the spiraling rate of extinctions caused by these factors, preservation of parkland and healthy habitats that provide for the survival and flourishing of wildlife should be paramount.

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<sup>6</sup> Op cit, Longcore, Travis and Rich, Catherine, page 16. .

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, page 16.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, page 6.



For all these reasons, we believe that a full Environmental Impact Report should be prepared that addresses the impacts of the project on the various species of wildlife that live in or fly over the Park, before this project proceeds. Issues to be considered include project redesign such as having the ferris wheel lighted only during times outside bird migration and nesting seasons and other mitigations to reduce impacts to other wildlife species. Also, alternative sources of electric power, generated with clean energy, should be identified.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Arthur Feinstein*

Arthur Feinstein

cc: Michelle Taylor, Preservation Planner  
Planning Commission  
Recreation and Park Commission  
Supervisor Sandra Fewer  
Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Aaron Peskin  
Supervisor Dean Preston  
Clerk of the Board





*inspiring people to protect  
Bay Area birds since 1917*

January 3, 2019

Via U.S. Mail and email

Historic Preservation Commissioners

1650 Mission Street, Suite 400

San Francisco, CA 94103

[Commissions.secretary@sfgov.org](mailto:Commissions.secretary@sfgov.org)

**Re: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - 2019-022126COA**

Dear Commissioners;

On behalf of Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) please accept these comments on the Golden Gate Park 150 year anniversary proposal for an artificially lit observation wheel. GGAS is a 103- year old non-profit organization with over 7,000 members who are dedicated to protecting native bird populations and their habitats.

The proposed 150' structure in the midst of the park poses a threat to birds flying through the park and the artificial light poses an additional risk. The US Fish and Wildlife Service identified collisions as one of the largest threats to birds after habitat loss and outdoor cats.<sup>i</sup> Birds fatally collide with structures if they see the environment or sky reflected on the glass or reflected on the surface. Birds may also collide during their spring and fall migrations especially during foggy or bad weather events. During migration birds can be attracted to lighted structures resulting in collisions.<sup>ii</sup> Lights of any structure can attract night migrating birds resulting in increased collision risk or the birds can become disoriented leading to exhaustion or unnecessary use of energy when it is critical for migration or for breeding productivity. The proposed site is adjacent California Academy of Sciences (CAS). The CAS conducted a study of the bird-building collisions at their building and published a paper regarding this issue.<sup>iii</sup>

GGAS support **Lights Out during Migration**<sup>iv</sup> to save natural resources, money and birds. The proposed artificially lit observation wheel poses an unnecessary threat to birds.

In 1930, Joseph Maillard's *Handbook of the Birds of Golden Gate Park* was published by the California Academy of Sciences. The introduction states: 'Since its development from the sand dune stage, Golden Gate Park has become a well-known visiting ground for bird lovers of all ages, for students of our vicinal bird life and for many others who might, with a little encouragement, become bird lovers. Extending from the ocean beach for three miles straight into the city of San Francisco and covering a thousand acres of hill and dale, wood and meadowland, it is a great outdoor aviary, where wild birds are free to come and go.'

**GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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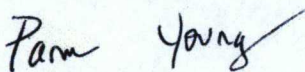
GGAS volunteers lead monthly field trips in Golden Gate Park to share the birds with residents and visitors. Golden Gate Park provides a place for people to relax and experience nature. Here volunteers from GGAS have been participating in habitat work to attract birds and butterflies and other wildlife near the Bison Paddock and North Lake. There have been 251 species of birds documented in the park. Each spring and fall, migrating birds depend on Golden Gate Park as a place to stop, feed and rest. Each summer birds breed and raise their young in the park.

We look forward to continuing to bring our members and the public on hikes, bird walks, encouraging volunteers to participate in habitat restoration and maintenance work, and also enjoying birds and other wildlife in Golden Gate Park.

*For bird safety, at the very least we recommend that the observation wheel not be lit during the spring and fall bird migration. The spring migration is February 15 through May 30 and the fall migration is August 15 through November 30. This is also an opportunity to share the message about Lights Out for Birds during Migration with the public.*

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,



Pam Young  
Executive Director

Cc: michelle.taylor@sfgov.org

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/bgllunchroomflyer.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Kahle LQ, Flannery ME, and Dumbacher JP (2016) Bird-Window Collisions at a West-Coast Urban Park Museum: Analyses of Bird Biology and Window Attributes from Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. PLoS ONE 11(1): e0144600. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0144600>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://goldengateaudubon.org/conservation/make-the-city-safe-for-wildlife/learn-about-lights-out-san-francisco/>





## **Raptors Are The Solution**

**A PROJECT OF EARTH ISLAND INSTITUTE**

2150 Allston Way, Suite 460 · Berkeley, CA 94704 · (510) 292-5095

VIA EMAIL

January 7, 2020

Michelle Taylor, Preservation Planner  
Planning Commission, Recreation and Park Commission  
Supervisor Sandra Fewer and Supervisor Gordon Mar  
Supervisor Aaron Pekin and Supervisor Dean Preston  
Clerk of the Board

**Re: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive – 2019-022126COA**

Dear Ms. Taylor, Planning Commission, Rec and Park Commission, and SF Supervisors,

Raptors Are The Solution, a Berkeley-based nonprofit dedicated to educating the public about the ecological role of birds of prey in urban and other environments and about the damage to wildlife caused by rat poison in the food web, is concerned about your plans to install a 150-foot-tall lighted observation wheel in the middle of Golden Gate Park.

We believe the proposed structure will pose a threat to raptors and other birds flying through the park: The glass and artificial light could very possibly confuse and disorient them, resulting in collisions and mortality.

This park is a refuge for birds and should be protected and managed as such—surely there is a better way of celebrating the park's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary that would also celebrate its long history as a bird and wildlife refuge. It would be great if you could instead offer events that would educate the public about the birds that use the park—especially as habitat is being lost everywhere and bird populations are in a serious decline. Please don't contribute to that trend.

Sincerely,

Lisa Owens Viani  
Director





## Coyote Yipps

*Information About San Francisco Coyotes: Behavior & Personality, Coexistence & Outreach, by Janet Kessler:  
Unveiling First-Hand Just How Savvy, Social, Sentient and Singular Coyotes Really Are!*

January 7, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission  
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 2019-022126COA: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed Lighted Ferris Wheel  
and Bandshell in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland,

I have recently heard about the proposal for a lighted ferris wheel in Golden Gate Park for their 150th Golden Gate Park celebration. I find this extremely upsetting and hope that you will cancel the project.

Not only will this project — the construction and even more so, the final project — be disruptive to wildlife in the area through bright lights and noise, but it's also going in the opposite direction to what most people want for our park. We have a wonderful resources now where nature can be appreciated, learned from and enjoyed: this is what our park has been about. But with bright lights and a huge ferris wheel you are turning the park into a Las Vegas — into less of a nature area which we need more people to be involved with, and more into artifice, lights, money and crowds of people. I don't think this is the way we should be "celebrating" a park, especially here in San Francisco, named after St. Francis who was an animal person.

Please don't allow this project to proceed. Instead, let's celebrate the anniversary with a focus on nature: trees, birds, animal life, and what we can do to preserve this dwindling resource in our world.

With appreciation for consideration,

Sincerely,

*Janet Kessler*

Janet Kessler

[www.Coyoteyipps.com](http://www.Coyoteyipps.com)

Coyote Voicings   Gallery from INSTAGRAM   Take A Short Coyote Survey   UrbanCoyoteSquared:  
GALLERY   A Guidelines and Safety Box   Coyote Yipps Blog  
San Francisco as Habitat and Place   Resources  
<https://coyoteyipps.com/>





## Coyote Yipps

*Information About San Francisco Coyotes: Behavior & Personality, Coexistence & Outreach, by Janet Kessler:  
Unveiling First-Hand Just How Savvy, Social, Sentient and Singular Coyotes Really Are!*

January 12, 2020

Historic Preservation Commission  
Planning Department, City and County of San Francisco  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103

Subject: 2019-022126COA: 55 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive - Proposed Lighted Ferris Wheel  
and Bandshell in Music Concourse

Commission President Aaron Jon Hyland,

Thank you for considering my letter in opposition to the ferris wheel in Golden Gate Park.

Now I have suddenly become aware of the plans to not only build and light a ferris wheel, but also to add other extensive bright, artificial lighting, including spotlights on top of the Bandshell.

Again, I am asking you to **OPPOSE** this plan. It's a perfectly horrible way to ruin the natural beauty which is the essence of Golden Gate Park with its trees, vegetation, old carved stone structures, and all the wonderful wildlife there. In fact, it will interfere with wildlife and actually cause stress. Our "wildness" areas are a valuable but vanishing commodity in our modern world where those who want to make a buck are eschewing nature for lights, noise, artificiality and anything else that will bring in money, which is then turned around to pave over more of paradise. Our youth are not going to value nature if there is less and less of it for them to fall in love with.

Please oppose both the ferris wheel and its lights AND the spotlights and other artificial proposed lighting for the top of the Bandshell.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

*Janet Kessler*

Janet Kessler  
[www.Coyoteyipps.com](http://www.Coyoteyipps.com)