



San Francisco Tomorrow

Working to Protect the Urban Environment

Issue 362

Will you want to live in San Francisco – Tomorrow?

December 2013

FUN! FOOD! FRIENDS of the environment!

You and your friends are invited to party

with San Francisco Tomorrow!

SFT's Annual Holiday Party

New Day, New Location

Thursday, December 5, 2013
5:30 to 8:30 PM

HOLIDAY PARTY . BUFFET DINNER
At Unitarian Universalist Church
1187 Franklin Street @ Geary
RSVP: 564-1482 Jane
SFT 44 Woodland SF 94117



COME GOSSIP WITH OUR INVITED VIP GUESTS!

State Senators Mark Leno & Leland Yee . Assemblymen Tom Ammiano & Phil Ting
Supervisors Eric Mar, Mark Farrell, David Chiu, Katy Tang, London Breed,
Jane Kim, Norman Yee, Scott Wiener, David Campos, Malia Cohen, John Avalos
Bart Directors Tom Radulovich & James Fang . City Treasurer Jose Cisneros
Assessor Carmen Chu . City Attorney Dennis Herrera . Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi
Former Mayor Art Agnos . Former Supervisor Aaron Peskin
Department Heads: Monique Moyer, Port . Mohammed Nuru, Public Works
John Rahaim, Planning . Ed Reiskin, Muni . Melanie Nutter, Environment
Phil Ginsburg, Recreation-Park . Harlan Kelly, PUC
City College Trustees: Rafael Mandelman & John Rizzo
Leaders: No Wall on the Waterfront, SF Waterfront Alliance, Sierra Club
League of Conservation Voters, Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, Ocean Edge
Parkmerced Action Coalition, Potrero Hill Boosters, Wild Equity Institute
Arc Ecology, Telegraph Hill Dwellers
Media: Rebecca Bowe, Bruce Brugmann, Joe Eskenazi. Steven Jones, Tim Redmond

Please use the form on page four to respond to the HOLIDAY PARTY invitation!

WARRIORS development deal: all bad

The billionaire owners of the Warriors basketball franchise have decided to leave the Oracle Arena in Oakland and have set their sights on a brand new arena in San Francisco. The problem is where they want to build this new arena: 13 acres over open Bay waters at Pier 30-32. The proposed complex would be 12-stories high, have a 500 space private parking garage and over 90,000 square feet of retail space, *all built hundreds of feet over open Bay waters*. Environmental groups such as Save the Bay and the Sierra Club have already come out against the proposed project, citing impacts to air and water quality and other environmental damage..

Part of the proposed development includes the Warriors building a 17-story high luxury high rise condo, two hotel towers and more retail space on Seawall Lot 330, which sits are the corner of Bryant and The Embarcadero. With the defeat of Props B and C this past election, it is clear San Franciscans want to protect the height limits on our waterfront.

Traffic. Another serious issue with this project is traffic. The developers have said there will be approximately 40-50 basketball games a year at the new arena, BUT they also plan to have another 200+ events a year. It is estimated 2 million people will be drawn to the area surrounding Pier 30-32. The South Beach and SoMa neighborhoods are already at maximum capacity with vehicle traffic, especially during Giants games.

But what does any of this have to do with the rest of the City? The proposed arena will directly impact those who use public transportation. According to Supervisor Scott Wiener, Muni is already \$1 billion under-funded to meet the current needs. Long waits for trains before, after and during Giants games will continue; riders will still be kicked off trains so the trains can return to the Ballpark to pick up patrons at the games. Imagine experiencing long waits and even more crowded trains 250 times a year if the Warriors arena is built on Pier 30-32. The developers and the City of San Francisco have not been able to provide any answers about how to mitigate the public and private transportation problems. If the arena is built on Pier 30-32, the ripple effects will be felt throughout the entire City. To learn more visit www.sfwaterfront.org

Borrowing the money from the City? Since the Port of San Francisco is responsible for prepping and repairing Pier 30-32 for the private Warriors developments, the Port will have to come up with \$120 million, although most believe the costs will be even higher. The Port and the City do not have \$120 million to dedicate towards this project, so they will borrow the money from the Warriors at 13% interest rate!

This \$120 million public subsidy would be will be paid back in three ways: 1) The Port is planning to sell to the Warriors a very valuable piece of undeveloped waterfront property known as Seawall Lot 330, at the corner of Bryant and the Embarcadero for approximately \$35 million dollars. 2) The Warriors plan to build a 17 story luxury condo tower, two hotel towers and an additional 20,000 feet of retail on this property. The taxes generated by the improvement of Seawall Lot 330 **will not go to the City** to fund services such as police and firefighters; it will be credited back to the Warriors to help pay down the \$120 million debt. 3) The third bucket of money that will pay down the debt to the Warriors is in the form of free rent on Pier 30-32 until the debt is paid off, thus denying the City about \$2 million in rent a year.

The current state of the waterfront:



The Waterfront after proposed developments (including the high-rise and hotel complex on Seawall Lot 330):



VOTERS' BIG "NO" on Propositions B and C

Deep Sixes Waterfront Condo Complex Plan

San Francisco voters overwhelmingly rejected the 8 Washington luxury high-rise towers put forward as Propositions B and C on the November ballot. Landslide margins of 62%-38% (Prop B) and 67%-33% (Prop C) crushed the proposal. Despite the big developers and real estate interests spending over \$2.4 million on deceptive tv ads and mountains of misleading mailers, this was a monumental reversal for their deceptive campaign.

Thanks are deserved by the more than 1,000 people who generously donated the funds needed to help the NO campaign to compete with the developers' huge war chest and to get out the opposition message. Over 1,000 people volunteered their time and energy and made thousands of phone calls, collected petition signatures, passed out information handouts, sent e-mails, and posted campaign signs. Thanks are also deserved by the broad coalition of environmental and neighborhood organizations, affordable housing and tenant groups, and community leaders who voiced their opposition despite immense pressure from the "powers that be" downtown and at City Hall.

Most important, it was the voters of San Francisco who saw through the false campaign claims contrived by developer Simon Snellgrove and his promises of "public" parks and affordable housing which were taken up and promoted by Mayor Ed Lee and former mayor Gavin Newsom. San Francisco voters were not fooled. This assault on the waterfront height limits did not succeed. If these measures had succeeded, voters saw a possible precedent for other developments to try to change the height limits along the water; even voters in the west of the city saw the prospect of high-rise development at the ocean.

The fight for San Francisco's beautiful waterfront and to protect the special city we love is not over - in fact, it has just begun. The next chapter is the fight to prevent the Warriors basketball billionaires from crowding the waterfront at Piers 30-32 (see page two). This land is too valuable to the greater public. The voters saw the waterfront land that was at the heart of the Propositions B and C battle as public land that was being bundled into the "private" 8 Washington project.

"Thank you to every one of you for standing together to win an election that nobody said we could win," said Jon Gollinger, Campaign Director for No Wall on the Waterfront. "But this is San Francisco, we are San Franciscans, and we love our city."

SFT thanks Jon Gollinger, Aaron Peskin and

the cast of thousands of San Franciscans all over the city!



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It's the Annual SFT HOLIDAY PARTY!

Thursday, December 5, 2013 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Will you want to live in San Francisco Tomorrow?

Recycled Paper

Visit SFT's website at sftomorrow.com

Time for Fun at SFT's Annual Holiday Party!

Yes! I (we) will join you Thursday, December 5, 2013, at the SFT Holiday Party and Buffet Dinner, 5:30 to 8:30 PM, at Unitarian Universalist Church
1187 Franklin at Geary, San Francisco.

Here's my "SFT" check for \$35 ___ \$45 ___ \$50 ___.

Sponsor \$60 ___ Patron \$100 ___. Sponsors and Patrons may each bring a guest.
I can't be there, but here's \$ ___ to support SFT's work to protect our environment.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address/City/Zip _____

Email Needed _____

I wish to join SFT ___ Renew my membership ___.

Here's my "SFT" check for \$15, \$25, \$35, \$50 or _____

Please mail to SFT, 44 Woodland Avenue, SF 94117. RSVP: Jane 564-1482.

MUNI: 47 & 49 ON VAN NESS . 38 ON GEARY