



San Francisco Tomorrow

Working to Protect the Urban Environment

Issue 349

Will you want to live in San Francisco – Tomorrow?

December 2011

TIME FOR FUN
at the SFT
HOLIDAY
PARTY!



December 14, 2011

That's a Wednesday, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Forest Hill Clubhouse
381 Magellan Avenue

From Laguna Honda – 7th Avenue
or Forest Hill Muni Station:
Go west 2 blocks on Dewey
One block NW on Montalvo
Turn right to 381 Magellan

Good news!

Superior Court Judge approves injunction to stay installation of ATT utility boxes

Judge Harold Kahn of the San Francisco Superior Court recently approved an injunction requested by numerous neighborhood groups, and San Francisco Tomorrow as well, to “stay” the approval of locations and construction of 726 ATT utility boxes citywide. This approval had been given by the Board of Supervisors earlier this year despite appeal by the affected communities of the lack of an EIR for this enormous project.

Meanwhile, the hearings grind on. Every two weeks, a public hearing is held in City Hall in front of a hearing officer from the Department of Public Works (DPW) on the objections that neighborhood groups and individuals have made to the location of individual utility box installations. Most of these locations are on residential sidewalks and lend the computer visualizations that come with each application an eerie, metal, industrial look. Each box would sit on the sidewalk in front of bricks-and-mortar residence in the Sunset or Pacific Heights. What the “stay” means is that ATT cannot move ahead with actual construction at these locations, even if the DPW hearing Officer thinks they’re adequate, until the lawsuit itself comes before the court.

This injunction will remain in effect pending a final ruling in the environmental lawsuit filed by a coalition of San Francisco organizations, including San Francisco Beautiful, San Francisco Tomorrow, the Dogpatch Neighborhood Association, the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association, and the Duboce Triangle Neighborhood Association. These groups contend that such a large project should not have been covered by a “categorical exemption” or by a “negative declaration” and that a full-blown EIR (environmental impact report) is required to assess the environmental harm that would be done in neighborhoods across the city.

Everyone concedes that internet access could be improved (as the ATT U-verse system wants to do), but do these boxes have to be so large? How about half the size (as seen in other cities)? Can the locations be fewer? How about half the locations? What exactly is the range of service? Could street trees help to mask their presence? Could the boxes be closer to the property line to avoid blocking curbside access? All these questions would be studied in an EIR.

Judging from the first few hearings, ATT is just pushing forward, answering the objections of the people who testify against these individual locations at the DPW hearings and waiting for the day when they can win the lawsuit in court. The “stay” is just a mosquito bite and will not stop the ATT bully from flexing its muscle waiting to get its way when the lawsuit itself comes before the court.

We need your help in updating our records.

Please email: jbsft2011@gmail.com

With your name, address and contact phone number.

We thank District 4 homeowner Eileen Boken for her
comments on the Transbay Terminal EIR:

"In an article dated 9/23/11, Forbes Magazine ranked San Francisco as the 7th most stressful city in the U.S. The reasons given were " Residents here deal with a 10.1% unemployment rate, the nation's second least affordable housing and a high cost of living – not to mention the country's sixth worst traffic congestion and the second highest population density."

Forbes Magazine ranked New York City as the second most stressful city in the U.S., in part, because it has the "most extreme population density".

Over the past twenty-five years, San Franciscans have opposed the "Manhattanization" of this city. San Franciscans have opposed the Manhattan model of development with its extreme density, in part, as this extreme density contributes to elevated levels of stress.

With the proposed Transbay project expanding very tall buildings to this extent, the result will likely contribute to stress levels being elevated even further." (More on the Transbay project in SFT's January newsletter.)

TIME FOR FUN at the SFT HOLIDAY PARTY!

COME relieve stress and GOSSIP WITH OUR INVITED GUESTS!

State Senators Mark Leno and Leland Yee
Assemblymembers Fiona Ma and Tom Ammiano
Mayor Ed Lee . Supervisors Eric Mar, Mark Farrell, David Chiu
Carmen Chu, Ross Mirkarimi (Sheriff-Elect), Jane Kim, Sean Elsbernd
Scott Wiener, David Campos, Malia Cohen, John Avalos
City Attorney Dennis Herrera . BART: James Fang, Tom Radulovich
City Assessor Phil Ting . SF Muni: Ed Reiskin . PUC: Ed Harrington
Port: Monique Moyer . SF Environment: Melanie Nutter
Recreation & Park: Phil Ginsburg

Sierra Club: John Holtzclaw, Becky Evans . Bicycle Coalition: Leah Shahum
League of Conservation Voters: Amandeep Jawa
Clean Water Action: Miriam Gordon . Treasure Island Wetlands: Ruth Gravanis
Bay Guardian: Bruce Brugmann, Tim Redmond, Steven Jones

Holiday Party Donation: Individual \$35 or \$50
Sponsor: \$60 Patron: \$120 Sponsors & Patrons each may bring a guest.

___ YES, I/we will join you at the Wednesday, December 14, 2011 SFT Holiday Party at the Forest Hill Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Avenue.

___ Sorry, I can't be there but I want to support SFT's work to protect our urban environment.

Here's my dinner check to "SFT" for \$35 ___ \$50 ___
Sponsor \$60 ___ Patron \$120 ___ Sponsors/Patrons may bring a guest.

Guest Name(s) _____

Address/City/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I wish to join ___ SFT ___ renew my SFT membership
Here's my dues check to "SFT" for \$15, \$25, \$35, \$50 or more.

Please mail to SFT, Jane Morrison, 44 Woodland Ave. SF 94117 or RSVP Jane at 564-1482

**Your support and membership
make possible
SFT's day-by-day fight to:**

Keep our waterfront open to the public with water-related uses. Speed construction of the new downtown Transbay Terminal to bring all Bay Area transit together, enabling immediate transfers with Caltrain and High Speed Rail. Protect San Francisco Bay from unnecessary fill. Give all San Francisco neighborhoods a say in their future, with environmental justice in City decision-making. Rebuild our water and sewage systems to be environmentally sustainable and cost-effective. Expand public transit to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. Keep City parks public and preserve as much of the Presidio as possible as a park open to everyone.

San Francisco Tomorrow was conceived in 1969: “To cultivate in San Francisco a physical environment in harmony with its natural setting and the needs of its inhabitants; to create respect for its priceless natural features, its human population, its flora, and its rich endowment of animal, bird, and marine life; to foster the orderly development of the City as a fit place in which to work and live; and to educate the public and our elected officials as to the urgency of preserving the fragile environment which places San Francisco among the great cities of the world.”

We need your help in updating our records.
Please email jbsft2011@gmail.com
with your name, address and contact phone number.



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