



San Francisco Tomorrow

Working to Protect the Urban Environment

Issue 346

Will you want to live in San Francisco – Tomorrow?

July 2011

San Francisco Tomorrow's Annual Picnic!

August 20 Brunch is 11 a.m. at Pier 23

San Francisco Tomorrow's Annual Picnic will be entirely different this year. We will start with an 11:00 AM outdoor brunch on Pier 23 and then explore the future of the nearby piers on the northern waterfront.

SFT conceived the idea of the August picnic 16 years ago – as a way of viewing the areas we were interested in rather than just discussing them at meetings and in the newsletter.

This year, after brunch, SFT will present an update on the Northern Waterfront. Big plans are underway from the local community vision for the Port's landside (seawall) lots to the proposal for the new Cruise Terminal and the America's Cup races. How is the Port living up to its 10-year-old

agreement to create new recreation and open space opportunities? How will the new cruise terminal affect the neighboring historic piers?

The 11:00 AM brunch will be on Saturday, August 20, at outdoor tables on the waterfront behind the Pier 23 Cafe. You can choose Vegetable Frittata, Fish Tacos or a Hamburger. The brunch will end by 12:30 PM, when we will begin the tour of Pier 27 and other spots along the waterfront.

Your donation for the event is \$29 and will include brunch. Your reservation may be made by sending your \$29 check to "San Francisco Tomorrow" by Tuesday, August 16, to Jane Morrison, SF Tomorrow, 44 Woodland Avenue, San Francisco 94117.

___ **YES**, I ___ we ___ will attend the annual San Francisco Tomorrow picnic at 11:00 a.m. at the Pier 23 Cafe on the Embarcadero northeastern waterfront. I/we wish to order: Vegetable Frittata ___ Fish Tacos ___ Hamburger ___ *(please indicate number)*

My check is enclosed for \$29___ Sponsor \$50___ \$75___

Name(s) _____

Address/City/Zip _____

email _____

I wish to join_ SFT ___renew my membership.
 Here's my membership dues check to "SFT" for \$15, \$20, \$25, \$35, \$50 or \$ _____
 Please mail to SFT, Jane Morrison, 44 Woodland Ave., SF 94117

COMMODIFY-ING WATER

What are the dangers of drinking water from plastic bottles? We are learning that chemicals leach into the water from the plastic, especially if it is old or heated. We also know that there is no “buy by” date on the bottle and no way of knowing whether the bottles have been handled properly and kept cool. We question what conditions allow for the growth of bacteria.

We know that few people dispose of them properly, so the bottles are stacking up by the billions in landfills and floating in our oceans.

Few believe that the water that is bottled is special pure water from pristine streams, but even if it is, who owns this water? The water that comes from our aquifers, streams, lakes, and even our own municipal water supply, is water targeted for re-sale by the bottlers, even if this is public water. Who has the right to own water that is a public resource? For example, Nestle, the world’s largest bottler of water, forages around the world, especially in developing nations, tapping into local drinking and agriculture water sources and buying it.

Nor is the U.S. immune to such exploitation. In Kennebunkport, Maine, Wells Water District trustees

discussed a deal with Nestle in which 433,000 gallons of water could be extracted daily from the Branch Brook Aquifer for 0.06 cents per gallon. This brought out the citizens who proposed a local ordinance to prohibit the corporate withdrawal of water for resale. This is happening all over the country from McCloud, California back to Barnstead, Maine.

Companies like Coca Cola, Pepsi, Nestle and other bottlers go from one district to another and pitch cash-strapped local governments: our strategy can “save” your town, district or municipality from bankruptcy, or enhance your local government’s budget by commodify- ing its water supplies. Is this perfectly legal? Corporate lawyers say yes.

What is a public resource?

What is a private commodity?

Write to SFT your answers, if you have them, which we will share at our August picnic and in our newsletter. Meanwhile, quit buying tap water in a bottle. It’s convenient but if it’s tap water, you can get it from the tap yourself and put it in a glass container. Make sure you know where your water is coming from.

"We are updating our records and need your help. Please send an email to 2of3jays@gmail.com and provide your full name, mailing address, contact phone number and email address.

Tenants Lawsuit

San Francisco Tomorrow has joined the tenants of San Francisco's Parkmerced to file a lawsuit against the city for its approval last month of a plan to remove about 1500 affordable townhouse units and add thousands of apartments in new high-rise buildings. In addition, tenants delivered sufficient signatures to the Department of Elections to qualify for the ballot a measure that would essentially nullify the approved plan. The tenants fear that they would be displaced and suffer the loss of their rent-controlled housing.

Attorney Stuart Flashman said the groups are challenging the city's approval of the project on both the legal and political aspects. The lawsuit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, alleges that the environmental impact report certified by the board was inaccurate and inadequate and fails to adhere to policies and priorities enacted by Proposition M, an initiative approved by voters in 1986 to put limits on high-rise developments and protect affordable housing.

At the start of the final committee hearing on the Parkmerced development agreement, Board of Supervisors' President David Chiu issued four pages of amendments that he said would help protect the rights of Parkmerced tenants. Since that was the first that

anyone had seen them, Flashman said that residents of Parkmerced should have had an opportunity to review changes that will “have a tremendous effect on them, and to spring it on them at the last minute is really unfair.”

Developer representative P.J. Johnston said that while many residents will be relocated within the complex, the new apartments will be built before the old ones are demolished so people will only have to move once, and the new units will be similar in size and will have the same rent control status. Cathy Lentz of the Parkmerced Action Coalition argued that that might not happen if the project changes ownership at some point in the future.

Beside the Bay



Among the Port Projects we'll tour and discuss **August 20 at the SFT picnic** is the ***James R. Herman Cruise Terminal Proposed for Pier 27.***

The Port of San Francisco intends to develop a primary cruise terminal at Pier 27 to replace the existing facility at Pier 35 which has neither the capacity to allow for the increased length and passenger numbers of the latest cruise ships nor the amenities needed for an international cruise terminal. Pier 27 is currently used as a back-up berth, but does not have any amenities within the maritime shed.

The new cruise terminal on Pier 27 would serve as the primary cruise ship terminal while Pier 35 would serve as a secondary terminal when two cruise ships are in port on the same date. It would be named in honor of James R. Herman, the former Port Commissioner and President of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, and designed to meet modern ship and operational requirements of the cruise industry. By its design and placement, the structure would become a prominent visual and symbolic gateway to the City.

Under the approved design scheme, the existing Pier 27 maritime shed would be demolished to allow construction of an approximately 88,000 square foot, two-level cruise terminal facility. Passengers departing and arriving in San Francisco would pass through the terminal, which would house ticketing, baggage and Customs and Border Protection Area and security operations.

The cruise terminal improvements would include installation of new maritime equipment, including a mobile overhead gangway for boarding passengers

along the Pier 27 apron. The cruise ship shore-side power infrastructure would be in place to provide electricity to power the ship while in berth, allowing cruise ships to cease running their on-board engines.

As part of long-term plan to create more public open space along the waterfront, the Port will construct the 2.5 acre Northeast Wharf Plaza along the west end of Pier 27 along the Embarcadero Promenade. The paved triangular area between Pier 27 and 29, referred to as the valley, is proposed as the Ground Transportation Area ("GTA") for the cruise terminal. The GTA would be approximately 3 acres providing sufficient space to support access, drop-off and exiting by trucks, taxis, buses and passenger vehicles to meet provisioning and passenger loading needs of the cruise terminal. The GTA circulation and operation plan includes vehicle queuing space and is proposed to meet all transportation needs off-street, in an effort to remedy traffic congestion and transportation conflicts currently generated by Pier 35 cruise terminal operations.

National HISTORIC PRESERVATION TRENDS

There is a growing awareness that ethnic, racial and cultural diversity must be included in America's cultural heritage. Currently, only three percent of the National Register's 86,000 sites and only one percent of California's historic resources inventory reflect racial, ethnic and cultural diversity. With the 2010 Census forecasting a multi-ethnic America, a rainbow of recognized historic resources would better honor America's multiculturalism---Afro-Americans, Hispanic, European, American Indian, Asian, LGBT, etc., more cultures, social trends, religions, communities, architectural styles and historic time periods than can be counted here. Reflective of the new awareness, the National Register of Historic Places recently listed San Francisco's Bay View Opera House as an historical community asset, and historic structures in several old California Chinatowns. California's work on a LGBT Historic Context Statement will serve as a model for other cities and states in future years. Mid-century architectural modernism is gaining recognition, with the 1959 North Beach Library being recommended by the



State Historical Resources Commission for listing on the National Register. Opportunities exist to excite elected officials with their constituents' love of their own culture, history and heritage--- even by

tapping preservation's economic advantages and benefits, as unveiled in a recent Rutgers study: First Annual Report on the Economic Impact of the Federal Historic Tax Credit. With the current halt in new housing starts, a broader base of job creation and local employment could be quickly injected into renovations, rehabilitations and *preservation*.

Look for changes in the SFT website soon. Meanwhile, for essential information about San Francisco Tomorrow, go to www.sftomorrow.org



Change Services Requested

Don't miss
SFT's Annual Picnic
August 20 at Pier 23

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Recycled Paper