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# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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## Plan to Protect Neighborhoods from Fire Abandoned

No water to fight fires in southern and western neighborhoods could result from SFPUC's decision

by Thomas K. Pendergast

As the smoke clears from the devastating fires north of San Francisco that burned roughly 200,000 acres, incinerated more than 7,000 houses and killed 42 people, San Francisco might notice the distant roar of its own disastrous inferno approaching. More than 15 San Francisco neighborhoods could burn to the ground due to a lack of water at the SF Fire Department's (SFFD) disposal after a major earthquake.

A plan to expand the city's emergency firefighting network was stalled for years because of political interference and one city agency's refusal to ask voters for all of the money that is needed to protect neighborhoods in the southern and western parts of the city. Experts say alternative plans being promoted are likely to fail, leaving vulnerable city residents, like seniors and the disabled, to perish in a firestorm of the city's making or to suffer the consequences of disease and other maladies due to a lack of fresh water after a disaster.

Experts say it is inevitable that someday there will be another earthquake on the scale of what struck the City in 1906, a 7.8 on the Richter Scale. Now, generations after the fact, the lessons learned from that catastrophe still resonate today as the SF Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and politicians struggle to plan for the next “big one.”

The death toll for that calamity in 1906 is now estimated at about 3,000, according to professor Charles Scawthorn, an expert on fire modeling at UC Berkeley.

Before that infamous earthquake, the City had a good, functional water supply system. Then, the ground shook violently for almost three minutes and the

domestic system's pipelines sustained more than 300 breaks on water mains and 23,000 breaks on service connections. Consequently, the fire department lost water pressure at the same time that busted gas lines sparked a conflagration, which ultimately devastated much of San Francisco.

According to James Dalessandro, who wrote the novel “1906,” a fictional story set in San Francisco during the earthquake and its aftermath, many people died in the fires that followed the massive shaking, and only Navy ships pumping sea water down Van Ness Avenue eventually stopped the wall of flames.

While researching for his book, Dalessandro discovered that within 10 minutes of the earthquake at least 51 recorded fires broke out.

“The majority of them were in the South of Market area, which was a lot of cheap hotels and some industrial areas,” he said.

Without water to fight the fires, the SFFD found itself helpless to react, so the fires soon spread among collapsed buildings until it created a conflagration that swept across the City.

“The military, in their infinite genius, decided to use dynamite to try and stop the fire by blasting away at wood-frame buildings but all it did

was spread the fire,” he explained. “The United States Navy stopped the fire. They ran hose lines along the Embarcadero from Van Ness toward the Ferry Building. And they ran another hose line up Van Ness Avenue to California Street. They pumped salt water into the engines for fire fighters and people in the neighborhood came charging out of their buildings with curtains and blankets and towels and soaked them with salt water to beat the flames down on some of their buildings. That's what stopped the fire.”

Estimates vary, but there could be as many as 100 fires flaring up in the outer avenues soon after a large earthquake, and many more across the city. There were 27 fires reported after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, which lasted 45 seconds.

Frank Blackburn retired from the SFFD in 1991 as an assistant chief after a 32-year career with the department. He was also the director for earthquake preparedness.

“Most people think that the earthquake did all of the damage in 1906, but no, it didn't,” Blackburn said. “The fires that started following the earthquake destroyed 27,000 buildings.”

### Building a safety network

In the years immediately

Cont. p. 4



The blue-topped fire hydrants supply high-pressure water for fire-fighting to the AWSS's lower zone.



The red-topped fire hydrants are used in the upper zone, above 150 feet in elevation.



The black-topped fire hydrants are used in the Twin Peaks Zone, servicing the city's higher elevations.

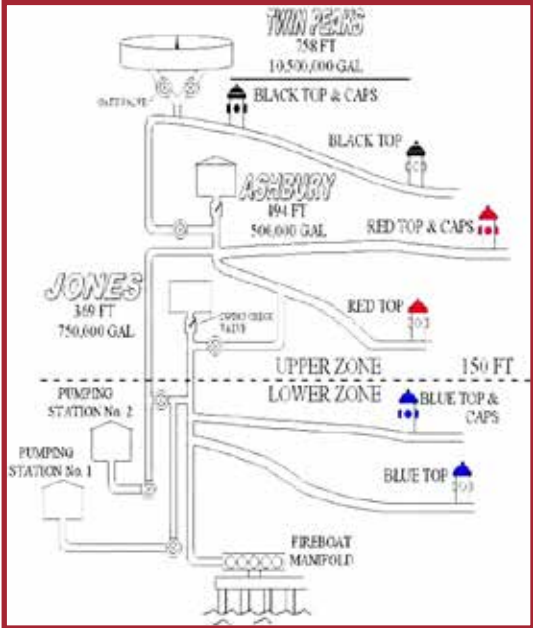
## Fireman Warns Westside “Highly Vulnerable”

by Thomas W. Doudiet

As a 60-year resident of the Richmond District and a 32-year veteran of the SF Fire Department (SFFD), I have long been aware that the Outer Richmond and Sunset districts, with their hundreds of blocks of wood-frame buildings, will be highly vulnerable to fire immediately following the next great Bay Area earthquake.

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“My message: There will be almost no emergency water supplies for the SFFD to use in these neighborhoods for fighting fires after the “big one” hits.”



The AWSS is a gravity-fed system originating at the Twin Peaks Reservoir. High-pressure water is delivered to higher elevations in the city via black-topped hydrants, median height to red-topped hydrants, and blue-topped hydrants to the lower elevations. During an emergency, salt water from the bay can be pumped into the entire system to maintain water pressure high enough to fight multiple fires



*Far, Far Away, in the Shadows*

## War on Residential Housing

by George Wooding

On December 7, the San Francisco Planning Department will try to destroy all of the residential housing codes throughout the City that pertain to housing demolition.

If the new codes are approved, Planning will allow residential housing to be built almost twice as large as existing housing. You may soon be living in the shadow of your neighbor's home.

“The goal was to build the largest homes possible ... there was little to no public transparency or meetings that included regular citizens, because Planning felt that its real constituencies were developers and architects.”

Housing speculators, developers, realtors, and contractors will make a fortune building larger homes next to smaller homes. Let's not forget 90% of Planning Department revenue comes from building permits.

Mayor Lee will be happy because he is hoping that the newly-modified homes will build additional units. This will help the mayor build the 5,000 units annually that he has promised. The Mayor loves housing density.

The residential housing neighborhoods won't know what hit

them. Neighborhood streets will become unrecognizable, with larger “McMansion” homes replacing smaller homes. Neighborhood character will be destroyed. Worse, even the larger units could be built in excess of permissible limits. For the sake of density, the City has declared war on residential housing.

Believe it or not, San Francisco claims to have almost no enforceable demolition codes. The Department of Building

Cont. p. 4

## The Real Heroes

Part 2

by John Farrell

Last month I wrote an article ‘The Real Heroes’ thanking all the people who risked their own lives to save those people and animals that were in grave danger due to the massive flooding and rains during Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. I also thanked all those who helped one another during Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the massive earthquake in Mexico. But it doesn't end there.

The recent Northern California wildfires were the deadliest in California history. The fires destroyed over 5700 structures, evacuated 90,000 people from their homes, and killed at least 42 people. The stories of people losing their homes and lives were heart wrenching. I have several friends who lost their homes. It is devastating and shocking.

But never give up on the human spirit. There were more than 10,000 firefighters battling the fires, and coming from Canada and as far away as Australia unbelievable dedication and self-sacrifice. They were helping others first and risking their lives was second.

I cannot say enough about those firefighters, police,



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# Judicious SFPD Covertly Procuring Military Gear

By Dr. Derek Kerr and Dr. Maria Rivero

The *Posse Comitatus Act* generally bars the use of soldiers in domestic policing. Soldiers are trained to kill and destroy while cops serve to keep the peace. This distinction has faded with the militarization of police in the War on Drugs and the War on Terror. A warrior mindset has seeped into routine policing as reported by criminologist Peter Kraska, the ACLU in *War Comes Home*, and journalist Radley Balko’s *Rise of the Warrior Cop*. Back in 1998, the *Bay Guardian* covered an SFPD drug raid in War on Crime, warning that when cops become soldiers, the community becomes the enemy. That concern persists.

Militarized policing started in the late 1960s when the LAPD introduced SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) teams to quell riots and violent emergencies. Initially driven by fears of civil unrest and armed gangs, SWAT teams gained acceptance. For politicians, SWAT teams confirmed tough-on-crime credentials. For cops, there was the lure of power. But money drove mission creep because SWAT teams generated revenues. Incentivized by federal grants and military gear for the War on Drugs as well as civil asset-forfeiture laws, police forces eventually steered 79% of their SWAT

Enforcement Support Office whose motto is “From Warfighter to Crimefighter”. September 11, 2001 spawned the War on Terror, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the ongoing national State of Emergency. The DHS flooded police departments with grants to address terrorism and disasters – emphasizing national security over humanitarian relief. And, given the rarity of terrorism and disasters, DHS offerings trickled into everyday police work.

President Obama issued an Executive Order limiting and banning ... tracked armored vehicles, large-caliber weapons, camouflage uniforms, bayonets and grenade-launchers.

Then came massive donations of excess military equipment from the Department of Defense (DOD) under the The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The 1989 NDAA authorized the transfer of military equipment to Federal and State agencies engaged in the War on Drugs. The 1996 NDAA created the “1033 Program” that expanded deliveries to local law enforcement for counter-terrorism as well as counter-narcotics purposes. Because this military gear must be returned if not used within a year, its deployment is abetted. Loosely overseen by the California Office of Emergency Services, the 1033 Program is administered by the Defense Logistics Agency’s Law

The deployment of war equipment to quell civil uprisings raised constitutional concerns after the August 2014 protests and riots in Ferguson, Missouri. Transparency and accountability concerns arose as well. Public access to detailed 1033 Program records had long been denied, yet government audits repeatedly showed extensive waste, fraud and shoddy documentation. Controversy led the Pentagon to release records of shipments to specific police agencies in September 2014. In May 2015, President Obama issued an Executive Order limiting and banning the transfer of battle-field staples like tracked armored vehicles, large-caliber weapons, camouflage uniforms, bayonets and grenade-launchers. He said that such



weaponry can “alienate and intimidate local residents” by casting the police as an “occupying force.” However, on August 28, 2017 President Trump reversed Obama’s Order, citing a need for “life-saving” armaments - and abolished the reporting requirements.

So far, the SFPD has been judicious in procuring castoff militaria. Unlike other Bay Area police departments, the SFPD hasn’t sought combat equipment. DOD records show that between April 2008 and May 2017, the SFPD received 68 surplus items valued at \$447,535. This represents the “acquisition cost” to the DOD rather than the market value of its surplus equipment, 36% of which is unused. The SFPD gets the gear for free, but pays shipping and maintenance costs. The big-ticket items were mobile remote-controlled robots, namely an MK3MOD0 valued at \$183,329 and 2 Packbot 510s valued at \$77,000 each. These machines can probe hazardous sites and dispose of bombs. The remaining items were vision-enhancing devices like thermal and reflex sights, night vision “sniperscopes”, and infrared illuminators for surveillance and reconnaissance.

So the SFPD upgraded its arsenal with cost savings. Of course, with a budget of \$583 million, the SFPD can purchase weaponry from private vendors. Or, it can accept gear transferred from other 1033 Program recipients like San Francisco’s

FBI office, its Joint Terrorism Task Force partner. The SFPD acknowledged receiving 3 “Remote Ordnance Neutralization robots” from “another law enforcement agency” in this way.

Incidentally, the City’s FBI office is the major local recipient of DOD military surplus. Records show it has acquired at least 1,850 items valued at over \$10.9 million since 1996. Major acquisitions include 113 remote controlled robots valued at \$6.7 million, 2 “Reconnaissance Camera Systems” valued at \$167,000 and 3 armored trucks valued at \$195,000. Much of the equipment is quotidian; computers, cameras, flashlights, rescue-equipment, even an “automatic coffee maker” and “exercise bicycles”. The military-grade equipment falls into 3 categories; Explosive Ordnance Disposal like robots, Hazardous Material Disposal including gas detectors, electric blowers, power-washers and X-Ray machines, and Reconnaissance gear including night-vision goggles, gun sights, rifle scopes and viewers using infrared and thermal signals. None of it is offensive combat gear.

Very little of the DOD surplus acquired by the SFPD is reported publicly. A search of the SFPD website for “1033 Program” revealed just 2 entries; 3 mobile decontamination trailers requested in 2002 and 13 forklifts in 2015. Press reports indicated that 2 helicopters were acquired in 1998.

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WEST PORTAL IS YOUR HOME,  
AND IT'S OUR HOME TOO.



ZEPHYR  
REAL ESTATE



Zephyr’s administrative office is moving to the neighborhood to join our well-established agents at our 215 West Portal Avenue office. We’ve been proudly serving San Francisco since 1978 and appreciate all your support as we continue to grow. | [ZephyrRE.com](https://www.zephyrre.com)

BURLINGAME

GREENBRAE

NOE VALLEY

PACIFIC HEIGHTS

POTRERO HILL

UPPER MARKET

WEST PORTAL



West Of Twin Peaks Central Council By Mitch Bull

Once the regular housekeeping items were dispensed with, the meeting began with a plea from **George Wooding** about Planning’s scheme to increase density, then proceeded to the new developments in the **Balboa Reservoir** plan.

**George Wooding**, President of the Coalition for SF Neighborhoods, said the Planning Department will move to gut height and depth restrictions with proposed code changes to Article 3, Zoning Procedures § 317 and that homes could easily become twice as big if the measure passes on December 7<sup>th</sup>. He urged members to speak against de-facto demolitions, which occur with a remodeling permit. For more information review the June 1 presentation<sup>1</sup> (Residential Expansion Threshold), also see his article on page 1.

Sunnyside’s **Lisa Spinali**, who chaired the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on the **Balboa Reservoir** project, briefly described the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) bidding process and timeline that brought us to the selection of **Avalon Bay Communities, BRIDGE Housing and Mission Housing, Habitat for Humanity and Pacific Union Development Corp.**, based on for-profit developers and non-profit builders with the experience and capacity to handle complex multi-year projects, and sufficient

how much open space, parking, affordable units, rental to ownership ratio, as well as considerations regarding the “fit” into the current neighborhood, the patterns of student parking from City College in relation to parking patterns for residential uses, as well as the relationship to the primary business district along Ocean Avenue, are all subject to change. “...the average age of City College students is 27-28 ... we would never want to discourage students from going to City College,” Spinali said. Another consideration is the citywide planning goal of moving from one **parking space** per unit to .5 per unit. The five existing neighborhoods communities adjacent to the development are also a factor in the final look of the project, from Westwood Park, a historic district with beautiful houses that are smaller, to the college with its traffic and congestion, and the business district on the south. Transportation element is key, “we can’t build anything until we resolve the transportation problems.”

**Brad Wiblin**, Bridge Housing,<sup>3</sup> the master development entity, described the



Lisa Spinali, Chair, Balboa Reservoir CAC



Brad Wiblin



Karen Murray



Scott Falcone

financial wherewithal. The selection was made by a team from Planning, SFMTA, SFPUC and two non-government people. The Request for Proposal (RFP) lasted several months. Of the presentations<sup>1</sup> from developer proposals, the winning proposal brought questions from the members.

While there will be two more years of input from the public on various aspects the CAC will remain to monitor the progress and solicit input from the public.<sup>2</sup> The **next meeting** will be Nov. 13, 6 pm, at the Multi-Use Bldg, Rm. 140 at City College.

What the housing stock will look like,

17-acre project criteria and perimeters that include a minimum two acre public park, four acres of open space. He outlined the relationship with his 50-50 partner Avalon Bay Communities. “It’s nice to have a partner who is a well-capitalized public company.” Mission Housing will be building one of the buildings and providing a child-care facility. Habitat for Humanity will be building homes for first-time homebuyers. Avalon Bay will build the market-rate rental component. Pacific Union will develop the parking. Another partner, yet to be named, will build the



Ruminations From a Former Supervisor by Quentin Kopp



Every man (and woman) has a right to his opinion, but no man has a right to be wrong about the facts, according to an anonymous writer. Another such anonymous bard once declared: “It is easier to believe a lie that one has heard a thousand times than a fact no one ever heard before.” In an era of flagellation of the media by a President who believes issuance of often-weird and usually bellicose and depreciating comments on Twitter constitutes an executive order worthy of legal enforcement, those perhaps pithy sayings are relevant. (Note that a Twitter message does not constitute a legal Executive Order.) A better description of journalistic negligence could be “inaccurate news,” rather than “fake news.” Last month, the *Chronicle* boasted of conducting a debate with four leading gubernatorial candidates, namely, Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, State Treasurer John Chiang, former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, and one-time Superintendent of Public Instruction Delaine Eastin, who had a “cup of coffee” in the State Assembly before term limits gracefully removed her. Among the subjects discussed was the so-called California High-Speed Rail Project, embraced in its current bastardized plan by Governor Brown to his future embarrassment. Chiang stated the project needed, in the *Chronicle*’s words, another viable funding source to be successful. He claimed knowledge of an unidentified potential “American investor.” That’s a joke, almost as laughable as Bay Area media’s ignorance and obliviousness to accuracy about a project I sponsored legislatively as a State Senator in 1994 and 1996 before serving as its governing board chairman upon concluding my judicial career in 2008. Its present plan violates my legislation. I deplore it. Do you blame me – or other voters?

Its construction of a fake high-speed rail system began months ago in the Central Valley and state politicians proclaimed its worth in a hyperbolic press conference, but such construction doesn’t include electrified rails, and runs from Chowchilla in Merced County to Wasco in Kern County.

\$3,200,000,000 from the 2009 economic stimulus legislation of then-President Obama, plus \$5,300,000,000 from the so-called California “cap and trade” fee system through 2024. It asserts it’ll receive \$5,200,000,000 more from bonds issued against such fees after 2024. The last named

Construction of a fake high-speed rail system began months ago in the Central Valley and state politicians proclaimed its worth in a hyperbolic press conference, but such construction doesn’t include electrified rails, and runs from Chowchilla in Merced County to Wasco in Kern County.”

(That isn’t even Merced to Bakersfield). In Wasco, a rider could board a bus for Bakersfield, some 30 miles south! I’ll leave readers to speculate on the number of people who want to ride conventional diesel rail from Chowchilla to Wasco, bearing in mind that the 2008 voter-approved state general obligation bond issue of \$9,950,000,000 includes a bar against any taxpayer subsidy of operating expenses.

source has been characterized by a University of Southern California public finance expert as an unreliable source of revenue which wouldn’t stimulate a rational private investor. (That’s what makes Chiang’s statement to the *Chronicle* so laughable.) The High-Speed Rail Authority asserts the entire Los Angeles-San Francisco run through Palmdale, Bakersfield, and Fresno will begin operation in 2029 after a 1.3-mile tunnel from the San Francisco Caltrain station at Fourth and King Streets is moved to the Transbay Terminal, another 36 miles of tunnels are constructed under Tehachapee Pass, and other southern California mountains, with a 13.5-mile tunnel in the Pacheco Pass (think State Highway 152) to reach from Gilroy to Chowchilla en route to Los Angeles. Bear in mind that tunneling 1.3 miles from Fourth and King Streets to First and



Now, state legislation prohibits a dedicated high-speed rail corridor from San Francisco to San Jose, which means theoretical high-speed electrified trains could operate a maximum of four trains per hour during peak hours (7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.) because Caltrain, which owns the right-of-way, would take precedence in operating six trains per hour in those time periods. The bamboozling High-Speed Rail Authority claims it possesses \$21,000,000,000 to build an initial operating portion from San Jose to Merced (actually, Chowchilla). The Authority has spent about \$3,000,000,000 already from the bond issue, leaving a balance of only \$6,800,000,00 and garnered

Mission Streets in San Francisco is not a \$2,000,000,000 project, as Transbay Terminal executives have falsely claimed to taxpayers, but rather a project currently estimated to cost over \$4,000,000,000. David Baker, in a *Chronicle* resume of future Bay Area transportation, reports inaccurately that the first segment of high-speed rail is being built between Bakersfield and Fresno, not Chowchilla or Merced, and iterates the same incorrect myth that service between San Francisco and Los Angeles can start in 2029. Maybe it’s not “fake news,” but it certainly misleads readers.

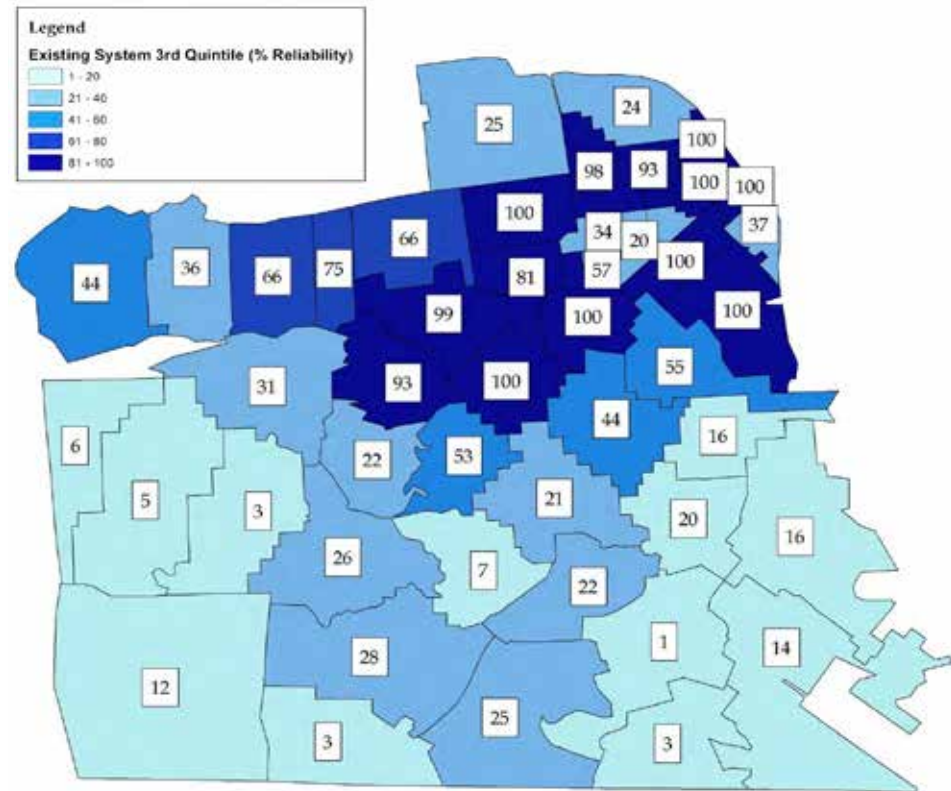
One more example: the U.S. Supreme

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Existing System Delivery Reliability

Neighborhood Fire Plan (Cont. from p. 1)

following the earthquake, city leaders designed and ordered built the Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS), a network of pipelines built to withstand a large earthquake that would be used exclusively for firefighting and was completely separated from the regular water supply pipelines. This system of extra-robust pipeline would be able to use both fresh water from the city’s reservoirs and tanks, plus an unlimited supply of saltwater as well.

The fresh water supply relies on gravity to send water downhill from the Twin Peaks Reservoir, so it is not dependent on PG&E’s electrical power, which would likely fail in a magnitude 7.8-level earthquake.

Two large pumps with independent power sources are used to push saltwater into the AWSS as needed. The pumps can supply up to 330 pounds-per-square-inch (p.s.i.) of pressure for firefighting throughout the AWSS. The system was designed to provide high-pressure water within 30 minutes of a major earthquake.

“It is a water system that is seismically designed to resist earthquakes,” Blackburn

said. “It has all kinds of contingencies and extra valves built in, so that if you have a break it can be closed off and then you can still have a water supply. Because we’re a peninsula and you have saltwater in the bay and the Pacific Ocean, we have an unlimited water supply. The (AWSS) mains are heavily constructed. They have tie rods so they don’t get pulled apart from underground earth movement.”

The original version of the AWSS was completed by 1913, however, at the time most of the City was in the north and east sections, so the AWSS now stops at 12th Avenue in the Richmond District, 19th Avenue in the Sunset District, and at first it was not extended to other city neighborhoods, including the Bayview Heights, Crocker Amazon, Excelsior, Ingleside, Little Hollywood, Merced Manor, Mission Terrace, Oceanview, Outer Mission, Outer Richmond, Outer Sunset, Parkside, Portola, Sea Cliff, Stonestown and Sunnyside.

The SFPUC includes on maps what it deems as an AWSS pipeline running from Stow Lake to Fulton Street and then west along Fulton to 48th Avenue, but the line

Cont. on p. 14



McMansions (Cont. from p. 1)

Inspection’s (DBI) building codes are vague and subject to favoritism and interpretation.

Many might remember that Mel Murphy, the former president of the DBI, had his house slide down Twin Peaks during a demolition/rebuild. The work on his steep slope appears to have been “dramatically different than the approved plan,” according to a report by Department of Building Inspection chief Tom Hui. Hui found that Murphy “failed to follow and implement the approved plans and the sequence of construction” in his permit.

The Planning Department is not inept when it comes to enforcing its own demolition guidelines. Planning is telling the public that Planning Code section 317 has to eliminate “Tantamount to Demolition” (TTD) and replace it with “Residential Expansion Thresholds” (RET). These building thresholds will determine whether or not a building is a “demolition” based on how much of the existing structure is retained through a major alteration.

By tightening modifications, and enforcement, Planning’s current TTD demolition guidelines would work fine. The proposed thresholds are not much of a limit and, in fact, are an incentive to demolish and build bigger structures to gain more dollars for more square feet

What Planning is really trying to do with the RET is to enlarge residential homes and create density in neighborhoods throughout the City by creating Floor Area Ratios (FAR). FAR is the ratio of a building’s total floor area to the size of the lot upon which it is built. These are the FAR numbers that Planning has selected. They are supposed to represent citywide averages of each type of residential zoning.

The definition of demolition is a necessary part of the Planning Code. Without it, the only definition to control demolitions is the one defined by DBI, which is as broad as tearing down an entire building to the ground. With no demolition definition, the older, more affordable housing stock will be at risk of replacement with luxury housing that is the least affordable to average families. And with no demolition definition, the great majority

of tenant-occupied residential buildings will be at risk of being demolished and replaced with bigger and less affordable dwellings. The demolition risk to these buildings is obviously a *displacement* risk to tenants who occupy them.

For example, if your neighbor has a RH-1(D) lot of 2,500 square feet, they will be able to build 1.2 times that: 2,500 X 1.2 = 3,000 square feet, plus 750 square feet for an accessory Dwelling unit (ADU). This will increase the unit size by 1,250 square feet.

The owner of a RH-1 lot of 2,500 square feet, will be able to increase their square footage by 1.4 times that: 2,500 X 1.4 = 3,500 square feet, plus 750 square feet for an ADU. This will increase the unit size by 1,750 square feet.

The owner of a RH-2 lot of 2,500 square feet can increase the total square footage of the unit to 5,250 square feet, and an owner of a RH-3 lot of 2,500 feet as a triplex can increase the total square footage of the unit by 7,250 square feet.

The Planning Department staff’s data in support of their proposed FAR “trigger” limits is non-existent. Planning was “Sunshined” by this reporter and asked for documents relevant to the RET and FAR programs. Analysis of the data discredited FAR averages. In fact, over 100,000 rows of data provided under a records request and extracted for RH zoning districts shows the *opposite* of what the staff claims. Currently, the great majority of RH homes in all districts and all neighborhoods, including duplexes and triplexes, are only half to one-third as large as the limits the Planning Department is proposing.

Planning was using its extremely over-inflated FAR threshold numbers so that the average FAR numbers would be much higher than actual figures. These averages were automatically selected, possibly using Global Information System (GIS) software. GIS systems capture, manipulate, analyze, and present all types of geographical data. The involved planners were Brittany Bendix, Audrey Butkus, Elizabeth Watty, and Maya Small.

Here is the copy of an August 1, 2017 email that GIS mapping data expert Paolo Ikezoe sent to Brittany Bendix:

“Hey Brittany, Good news ... I think I did it already! Bad news is I don’t have write access to the BOS section of the “I” drive. So I made a folder in the GIS section here: I:\GIS\Citywide\projects\city\20170801\_FAR\_for\_RET. I’m also attaching a super drafty map showing FAR, measured as building square footage (from the Assessor) divided by parcel area. The thresholds you see (0 – 0.75, 0.75 – 1.25, etc.) were automatically chosen by the GIS software. We can tweak these based on what figures we’re considering for the legislation.”

Reasonable people have to wonder just how much “tweaking” went on at Planning while drafting proposed legislation!

The Planning Department was shaping residential housing data for its own purposes. The goal was to build the largest homes possible and hopefully increase each home’s density. Additionally, there was little to no public transparency or meetings that included regular citizens, because Planning felt that its real constituencies were developers and architects.

Records obtained through the Sunshine requests show that the great majority of all dwellings in all districts have a FAR under 1.0. To be exact, there are 94,196 homes on the spreadsheet Planning provided that have a FAR of less than 1.0. That is why the threshold ranges chosen for the FAR map don’t reflect the reality on the ground. Choosing a range of FARs between .75 to 1.25 ignores the fact that 86% of homes in the RH zoning districts have a FAR of under 1.0. That is to say, the Planning Department’s FAR map bundled the vast majority of homes in San Francisco with a tiny minority that have a much larger FAR.

To get an accurate picture of existing FARs in San Francisco, we need to define more granular threshold ranges, such as the following: 0.0 to 0.55, .055 to .085, 0.85 to .99, and 0.99 to 1.25.

According to data analyst Ozzie Rohm: “99% of all RH-1 homes in Twin Peaks are under 0.69 FAR. For RH-1(D) homes, we have 58% that are under 0.69 FAR. So RH-1(D) homes are slightly larger but still, the majority of RH-1(D) homes are under 0.99 FAR.

**Twin Peaks**

There are a total of 934 RH-1 and RH-1(D) homes in Twin Peaks neighborhood and they make up 5% of all homes in District 7.

**RH-1 Homes**

There are 816 RH-1 homes, or 87% of all RH dwellings in Twin Peaks.

806 homes fall between the FARs of 0.08 and 0.69 – 99%

9 homes fall between the FARs of 0.70 and 0.99 – 1%

There’s *only* one home above the FAR of 0.99, and that is at 51 Mountview with a FAR of 1.97.

The largest concentration of RH-1

homes is in the FAR range of 0.08 to 0.69.

**RH-1(D) Homes**

There are 118 RH-1(D) homes, or 13% of all RH dwellings in Twin Peaks.

69 homes fall between the FARs of 0.23 and 0.69 – 58%

28 homes fall between the FARs of 0.70 and 0.99 – 24%

14 homes fall between the FARs of 1.0 and 1.24 – 12%

6 homes fall between the FARs of 1.25 and 1.49 – 5%

There’s *only* one home above the FAR of 1.49, and that is at 67 Clarendon with a FAR of 1.75.

The largest concentration of RH-1(D) homes is in the FAR range of 0.23 to 0.69.”

The “one size fits all” FARs do not address the need for a contextual, granular

Zoning	FAR Trigger/Unit		
RH-1(D)	1.2		
RH-1	1.4		
RH-2	1.0 (1 unit)	1.8 (2 units)	
RH-3	.9 (1 unit)	1.3 (2 units)	2.6 (3 units)

**Note:** .2 FAR has been added to all single-unit thresholds to account for parking

FAR based on thorough research and analysis of a large sample size of homes within different parts of the City.

Citizen activist Matt McCabe summarizes why he is against Planning’s proposed RET Proposal:

“No control over demolitions. Period. Create ‘Wild West’ expansions in the RH-1, -2, and -3 zones, and virtually unlimited expansions in other zones. Less affordable housing. More tenant displacement. More luxury housing that our City can ill afford. A homogenization of design across the City. Loss of unique neighborhood character and scale. A major ‘shushing’ of citizen input. And a reduction of work for the Planning Department.”

Please come to the December 7 Planning Commission meeting, room 400, City Hall to voice your opposition to the Planning Department’s attempt to replace its current demolition guidelines with a density plan that will ruin your neighborhood’s character, and may exile you into the shadows from your neighbor’s “McMansion” home. The open season on the destruction of existing residential housing stock must be stopped. Let’s kill this proposal.

George Wooding is president of the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN).



Commentary

# Is “managed retreat” manageable?

by Steve Lawrence

The Ocean Beach Master Plan (2012) is being implemented in ways both physical and verbal. South Ocean Beach (south of Sloat to Fort Funston) is eroding. Seas are rising. If left alone, valuable and necessary infrastructure may fall prey to the ocean.



“Some believe the rock should stay. It is there, it protects. If it is removed, erosion may occur more rapidly than predicted...”

It happens both gradually and suddenly. Gradually in that the ocean’s rise is slow but relentless. Suddenly in that in one storm, when conditions are right, the ocean can strike decisively, even after years of slumber.

The master plan adopted “managed retreat” as a guiding strategy. The idea is to adapt to nature. That’s the “retreat” part. The “managed” part hedges. We will try to protect the essential infrastructure for long enough to get, if not full then close to full, useful life from our investments. Protect the ratepayer, at least some.

Words, weasley words. What to do? In past emergencies, rock has been dumped to protect the cliffs from erosion. The master plan says the rock is to be removed when it can be done safely. Should it be?

Sand is being placed to raise the beach. Sand bags have been and may be placed. Other forms of protection are considered: cobble berm, buried wall, and more.

Some believe the rock should stay. It is there, it protects. If it is removed, erosion may occur more rapidly than predicted, and then the city may be required to spend big to protect or move not only its wastewater storage facility, but also, perhaps its whole sewage treatment plant (the Oceanside Treatment Plant). That could cost billions. And, where would a relocated plant be put?

Environmentalists support managed retreat. But even some of them want the plant’s wastewater storage facility moved soon—well before its “expiration date.” Is that proper management?

These are some of the tough questions fermenting at City Planning and SFPUC, which owns the treatment plant and related. Finding the right balance between retreat and proper management is key to keeping rates reasonable.

###

**SFPUC (water-power-sewer) employees rule.** Yes, there is a Commission to set broad policy. But the Commission only tugs here, shoves a bit there.

Recently staff presented yet another revision to what it plans to do with the “collection system.” What is collected is sewage and stormwater. Work on the collection system represents well over one-third of the SSIP, the \$7 billion Sewage System Improvement Program now underway.

Revising collection system work is not the first shuffling done. Earlier revision has included postponing work. Staff likes planning. Doing the work perhaps not so much. Putting work off ensures one’s job for longer.

Despite shuffling collection system work around, the total predicted cost turned out exactly the same for the first ten years of work.

Before SFPUC began its water system renovation (2003-present), it published a plan, experts studied what was needed, and a blue ribbon panel reviewed what the experts did to ensure that all was necessary and proper. The Commission and Board of Supervisors endorsed the water plan. The plan was presented to voters of each of the eleven districts. Voters okayed the sale of bonds.

A similar review process was not done for the sewer renovation work even though it will cost San Franciscans more than four times as much. Why? Voters exempted SFPUC from having to get voters to approve funding for its projects. Once exempt, SFPUC and its employees can do pretty much as they please.

Before the exemption, the program now called SSIP had a one billion cost. Now it is seven billion. Now work is shuffled around, this increased, that decreased by tens of millions. Is all the work necessary? Maybe, or maybe it suits employees.

More than tax dollars, three-fifths of which are paid by business, it’s your money paid in rates for thirty plus years after it is spent. Seven billion dollars, if the budget holds.

Steve Lawrence is a Westside resident and SF Public Utility Commission stalwart. Feedback: lawrence@westsideobserver.com

Letters

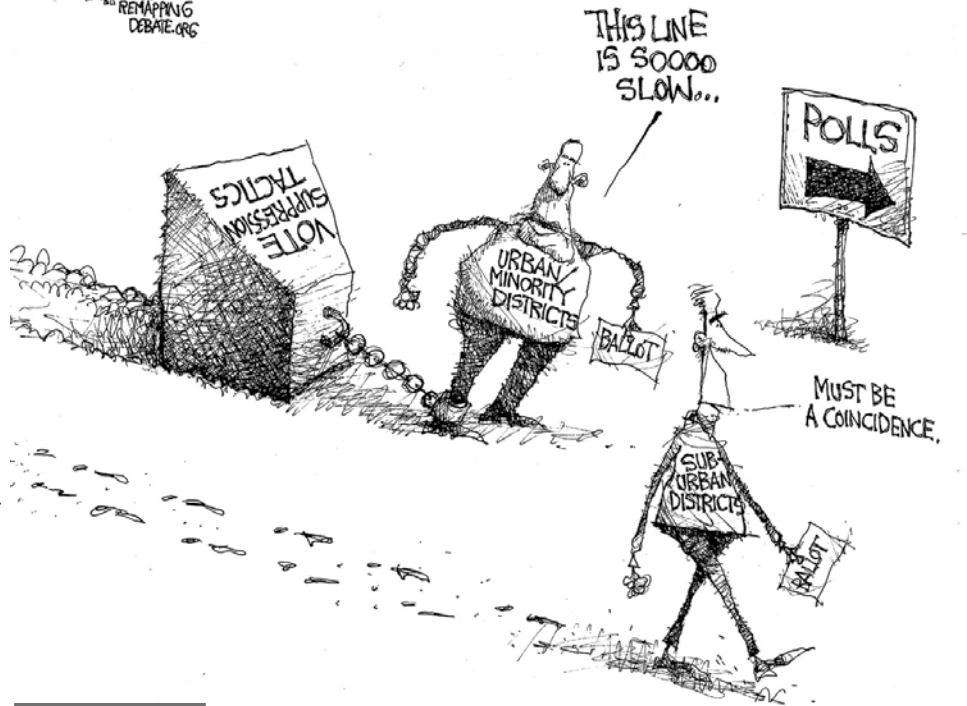
## Great Highway

The Planning Commission voted to approve the Giants Seawall Project at McCovey Cove with a huge list of speakers including former mayor Art Agnos declaring that this was the best project ever in San Francisco. It is indeed a well planned project except for one unfortunate detail, it will be submerged by rising seas within 100 years. A spokesman for the Port stated that they are prepared to spend billions of dollars on seawalls and levees to protect trillions of dollars in assessed value. At the same meeting the Commissioners voted 7 to 0 to approve the Ocean Beach Master Plan which will cost hundreds of millions of dollars to remove existing protection for the Great Highway and the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant. One of the commissioners remarked that she was surprised that there weren’t more public comments for such an important item. This item had been continued 3 times since April and moved back to end of the agenda, but the main reason no one was there to comment is that very few people are aware of this plan.

The OBMP was written by SPUR to deal with erosion at Ocean Beach, unfortunately the people they assembled to write the plan are all advocates of managed retreat, a strategy that allows the ocean to erode the land unimpeded. They say that we should all accept managed retreat because the shoreline was supposedly pushed 200 feet seaward back in the 1800s. This preposterous lie is stated as a fact even though physical evidence is present to this day at Ocean Beach that proves it did not happen. The Plan further states that replacing the Great Highway from Sloat to Skyline with a walking path will provide improved access to South Ocean Beach. The Plan says that the Great Highway, Skyline Boulevard, and Sloat Boulevard are all “under

utilized” roadways, but westside residents know better. The Plan states that there has been extensive outreach to the community and that all the stakeholders support the plan, yet no one knows about it. Some people believe that removing the existing rock revetments and rubble, letting the ocean erode the bluff, and then placing cobblestones right next to the Pollution Control Plant will provide a wider beach for a longer time but the ocean waves will scour out all the sand right up to the new rock barrier every winter. More importantly, this plan will subject the Oceanside Plant to the full fury of the waves because it says right in the OBMP that cobblestones are not a complete barrier to wave erosion.

Cont. p. 16



## E-Z Pass Voting

My 2¢ • Will Durst © 2017

## STOLEN WALLETS

Like the previous week and every one since February, the last 7- day period has been a perfect example of why the current administration gets less traction than a flamingo wearing galoshes on an ice rink. The problem is Donald Trump: King of the unforced error. Shoots himself in the foot so many times, it’s amazing he has either of his knees left.

Started out innocently enough. A reporter asked why the White House hadn’t mentioned the 4 Green Berets killed in Niger 2 weeks earlier. Misunderstanding the query, the president said he was preparing to call the families of the fallen. Which wasn’t the question but would have been fine. If he stopped there. But he didn’t and proceeded to take aim with a shotgun at his shoes.

Shifting focus, the President targeted his Oval Office predecessors by saying “most of them didn’t make calls.” A statement that raised the hackles of Barack Obama, George W. Bush and every other president going back to the first John Adams.

In an attempt to stem the continuing negative press covfefe, Trump hastily called a Gold Star widow who was on the way to pick up her husband’s remains and consoled her by saying “your guy” “knew what he signed up for, but when it happens, it hurts anyway.” As comforting as cuddling up to a quiver of poisoned arrows in a barbed wire sleeping bag.

Florida Congresswoman Frederica Wilson recounted the conversation, having been in the car with her close friend, the widow of Sergeant La David Johnson, when the president called on speakerphone. Trump insisted he never said what the Congresswoman said he said and he had proof. But the proof was never identified or revealed or spoken of again. Proof go poof!

The next day the White House Chief of Staff, John Kelly, a Gold Star father as well as a retired 4 star Marine general, showed up at a press conference with a rhetorical mop and said, yes, Trump did say what the Congresswoman said he said, but only

because he, John Kelly, told him to say it. The president simply did it inelegantly. Our rookie president may have many skills, but touchy-feely is not one of them.

Kelly went on to refer to Congresswoman Wilson as an “empty barrel”, saying he was stunned she listened in on the call. Ignoring the fact he was listening as well. Being “stunned” the phone call you

were listening in on was being monitored by someone else is like expressing “shock” the wallet you ripped off was stolen.

Kelly has been reluctant to speak publicly of his son’s death but touched on it to defend his boss, recklessly squandering the credibility of the Adult Day Care Office. Press

Spokesperson Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked about inconsistencies in Kelly’s account, and said questioning the word of a 4 star general was highly inappropriate. As opposed to calling a Gold Star widow a liar. Which is very appropriate.

Everybody understands such a phone call is one of the toughest things a president or any human has to do. And Trump could have stopped the misadventure by apologizing for his clumsy attempt. But it’s increasingly apparent why Donald Trump never apologizes; because if he ever started, he’d be forced to spend every waking minute doing it.

Will Durst is an award-winning, nationally acclaimed columnist, comic and former door-to-door soap salesman in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For a calendar of personal appearances, including his new one-man show, “Durst Case Scenario,” every Tuesday at the SF Marsh until Nov. 21, please visit willdurst.com. facebook: will durst fan page



# WESTSIDE OBSERVER

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### WOTPCC (Cont. from p. 3)

town hall portion, he told the group. He added that half of the project units will be affordable, and half will be market rate.

**Karen Murray**, a partner with Van Meter Williams Pollack, a design firm, explained the transportation connections, streets, pathways and parking through the public realm to the various communities that surround it. The edges that abut Westwood Park, Riordan, and Ocean Avenue, are scaled to “fit” with those factors.

**Scott Falcone**, an affordable housing consultant with Mission Housing Development Corporation and a resident of Sunnyside, spoke about the public input process that has occurred and the ongoing opportunities to engage with the planning of the site. He gave balboareservoir@gmail.com as the email for more information. The topics for upcoming meetings of the CAC have not yet been set; Community feedback will be another year-long process and community walks are planned. Engagement with the City: Planning Department, SFMTA and SFPUC will respond to the public input.

Many member questions were about parking. The consultants agreed that getting the parking right is the major challenge. Green roofs and solar panels will be

major components. No storefronts onsite, so that the Ocean Avenue businesses will benefit. City College’s plans are uncertain. Developers are hoping to help build the parking garage with housing above for teachers, but the proposed Performing Arts Center will not impinge on the plans. The majority of the traffic generated at Ocean and Phelan, they said, is from City College, i.e., if you provide free parking, it encourages more automobile traffic. They are planning to transition parking to market rate parking—in the right balance. The proposed 100 for-sale homes, affordable and market rate, will have one-to-one parking, and will be from 450 to 1250 sq ft. There will be 1000 rental homes, half affordable and half market rate, that will have .5 parking spaces per unit, as well as shared parking with City College. Plans are tentative, and will be built in multiple phases. Opening date is targeted at 2025.

This month’s Report from Doug Comstock in Mitch’s absence.

*The next meeting of WOTPCC will be on November 27 at the Forest Hill Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Avenue at 7:30 pm.*

1 sf-planning.org/residential-expansion-threshold  
2sf-planning.org/balboa-reservoir-cac-meeting-schedule  
3 www.bridgehousing.com/

### Kopp (Cont. from p. 3)

Court 2010 decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* generated denunciations from all liberals because it enabled corporations to donate in support of, or opposition to, candidates for elected federal office. The Supreme Court decision is based upon the rule of law which holds that corporations, like persons, are protected by the First Amendment. The California Corporations Code specifically declares corporations are “persons” under California law. That didn’t affect the denunciation of such rule by the liberal intelligentsia, including a *New York Times* editorial predicting the decision would “thrust politics back to the robber-baron era of the 19th Century” by enabling corporations “to overwhelm elections.” As the instigator of San Francisco’s first campaign contribution and spending limitation law in 1974, I, too, thought corporate political donations would overwhelm and distort elections. (The *Chronicle* characteristically notified us that “voters should prepare for the worst: cash-drenched elections presided over by free-spending corporations.”)

Since 2010, there have been two presidential and four congressional elections. The Federal Election Commission has received and filed as public records federal campaign spending and contribution reports which show corporate money has *not* been the leading source of donation or expenditures by candidates for federal public office. In 2015 and 2016, \$1,040,000,000 emanated from individuals, \$242,000,000 from unions, trade associations, politically active nonprofits (like

those in San Francisco which succeeded last month in weakening proposed Ethics Commission strictures applicable to these self-appointed saints), and other organizations, while only \$85,000,000 was donated by corporations, not including corporate political action committees which usually receive money from company employees, *not from corporate funds*. The top donor in 2015 and 2016 was Democratic billionaire Thomas Steyer (\$89,544,744). The Service Employees International Union donated \$23,274,845, the Laborers Union \$21,530,385, George Soros \$19,239,693, Michael Bloomberg \$43,561,624, and the teachers (National Education Association) splurged at \$23,773,966 from union dues. Have you heard that from purveyors of daily news? I hadn’t, until reading an article by the best First Amendment lawyer-specialist in the land, Floyd Abrams, Esq., of New York, who will publish next year a book entitled “The Free Speech Century.”

I end with praise for Governor Jerry Brown restoring some sense of political sincerity, not hypocrisy, by vetoing State Senate Bill No. 149 last month. Brown, who declined to release his state and federal income tax returns as a candidate for Governor in 2010 and in 2014, stopped enactment of an unconstitutional “showboat” measure aimed at Mr. Trump by requiring any presidential candidate desiring placement on the California ballot in 2020 to reveal publicly five years of federal and state income tax returns as a condition precedent. Maybe elected officials can be intellectually honest.

*Retired former Supervisor, State Senator and Judge Quentin Kopp lives in District 7*

## City Sues, Continues Investing In Big Oil

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

Oh, the irony being handed to Exxon’s lawyers: While City Attorney Dennis Herrera is suing five Big Oil companies over global warming effects causing sea level rise in San Francisco, San Francisco’s Employees’ Retirement System (SFERS) continues to invest in fossil fuel holdings.

What a field day Exxon’s lawyers could make over this disconnect!

### City Attorney Sues “Big Oil”

San Francisco City Attorney Dennis Herrera’s lawsuit filed on September 19 names five “Big Oil” corporations as respondents — including BP (formerly British Petroleum), Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil, and Royal Dutch Shell.

Herrera’s lawsuit alleges global warming-induced sea level rise is here, and is causing harm in San Francisco. The lawsuit alleges the named defendants are the five-largest *investor-owned* fossil fuel corporations in the world. Herrera alleges the defendants did not just simply *produce* fossil fuels. He further alleges the defendant’s portrayal of fossil fuels entailed downplaying mainstream climate science and downplaying global warming risks.

Herrera’s lawsuit doesn’t seek imposing liability on the defendants. Rather, it seeks a court order requiring defendants to abate global warming-induced sea level rise by funding an abatement program to build sea

“...it seeks a court order requiring defendants to abate global warming-induced sea level rise by funding an abatement program to build sea walls and other infrastructure needed to protect human safety, and public and private property...”

walls and other infrastructure needed to protect human safety, and public and private property in San Francisco. The lawsuit specifically notes the case involves *shifting the abatement costs back onto the companies*.

### City Burns, SFERS’ Trustees Fiddle

On April 23, 2013 San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors unanimously passed Resolution 126-13 urging SFERS to fully divest from its publicly-traded fossil fuel investments, to do so within five years, and immediately cease any new investments in fossil fuel companies. Here we are four-and-a-half-years later — months from the five-year goal — and SFERS hasn’t divested.

The December 9, 2015 SFERS meeting minutes reported that “Larry Barsetti, speaking on behalf of the Veteran Police Officers Association (VPOA), spoke in support of the motion to divest from fossil fuel investments, but urged caution to maximize investment returns to the [Retirement] fund.”

The full Board of Supervisors passed a second Resolution on September 12, 2017 again urging SFERS to fully divest its fossil fuel holdings. Two days later, Barsetti sent a letter on behalf of the VPOA to the Board of Supervisors with a copy to Mayor Lee, threatening that the VPOA is fully prepared to “certainly bring a [law] suit against any politician or political body at the slightest hint of a violation of the” [California Constitution prohibiting “tampering” with pension systems under the California Pension Protection Act of 1992].

Barsetti’s letter appears to paint with a broad brushstroke that the California Pension Protection Act of 1992 prohibits elected municipal officials from “tampering” with pension systems. But the legislative intent of the 1992 Act was to prevent elected officials from *raiding pension funds*. The Act specifically provided:

“Section 17(g): The Legislature may by statute *continue to prohibit certain investments by a retirement board where it is in the public interest to do so, and provided that the prohibition satisfies the standards of fiduciary care and loyalty required of a retirement board pursuant to this section.*”

### Baby Step: Thermal Coal Restrictions

It took from December 2015 until May 17, 2017 (a year-and-a-half) before SFERS full Board heard any investment restrictions on thermal coal companies. SFERS Board was presented a Staff recommendation on



May 17 to place Level III investment restrictions against just nine companies deriving significant revenues from thermal coal mining, and place nine other companies under Level II (shareholder engagement).

Of the nine companies moved to Level III on May 17, 2017 three had already filed for bankruptcy long before: Alpha Natural Resources (August 2015), Arch Coal (January 2016), and Peabody Energy (April 2016).

SFERS’ May 17 meeting minutes report Trustee Al Casciato asked whether “ownership” of investments in the 18 thermal coal and fossil fuel companies being moved to Level II or Level III had benefited the Pension Plan. Cagily, Bob Shaw, SFERS Managing Director of Public Equity Markets answered, noting “coal firms have not been additive to the [pension fund] portfolio in the last few years.”

It would have been more accurate had Shaw stated the inverse: For the past seven years dating back to 2011, SFERS’ coal firm investments have been “*subtractive*” to the pension fund’s ROI. But wait, there’s more:

SFERS’ entire fossil fuel portfolio isn’t maximizing investment returns.

### Other Fossil Fuel Investment Losses

SFERS’ May 17, 2017 meeting minutes also report Trustee Victor Makras introduced a motion regarding *full* divestment from SFERS’ fossil fuel public equity and fixed income holdings, not just its thermal coal holdings. Makras noted on a two-year return basis there had been just 12 fossil fuel investments with gains, and 37 involved losses. Between public equity holdings, fixed income holdings, and private-market equity holdings, SFERS holds \$474 million in fossil fuel investments that appear to be losing ROI.

Makras’ second May 17 motion hasn’t been calendared yet for SFERS consideration, and has languished since.

Between the cost basis and market value, SFERS’ oil and gas investments totaled a net *loss* of \$1.5 million in value as of June 30, 2017, with \$40.4 million in losses outstripping \$38.9 million in gains. Total investments in coal, oil, and gas combined had a net increase of just 0.60%, a meager \$2.2 million gain on initial costs of \$367.4 million.

The returns on these fossil fuel investments remain dismal.

On August 16, 2017 *San Francisco Examiner* columnist Robyn Purchia noted that while SFERS clings to its fossil fuel investments, it suffered a \$120 million loss in just three months:

“From March 31 to June 30 [2017], the total market value of the pension’s fossil fuel equities fell from \$442 million to \$322 million. ... But the dramatic \$120 million drop in three months raises an important question: Are these investments helping the pension [fund]?”

SFERS’ Trustees have a fiduciary responsibility to divest from fossil fuel precisely because they are *not* generating ROI to protect retirees’ pensions. A \$120 million loss over just three months cannot be “helping.”

### Exxon Lawyers’ Glee

If I were I that Exxon lawyer, I’d make great hay that Herrera’s lawsuit should be dismissed because SFERS has not only been an investor in investor-owned fossil fuel corporations, SFERS has continued investing despite knowing it wasn’t seeing “additive” ROI, but was seeing the inverse — “subtractive” ROI.

As a hypothetical Exxon lawyer, I’d

Cont. p. 13



# By the Numbers

## Did the DOJ Slam SFPD Using Fuzzy Math?

by Lou Barberini, CPA



In a December 16, 2015 CNN commentary, Van Jones lamented how certain races were subject to higher interest rates on their car loans, citing the joint findings of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). The CFPB/DOJ findings led to auto loan companies being assessed over \$80 million in settlements.

Perhaps Van Jones had not read an October 29 *Wall Street Journal* article, which exposed a different perspective on the CFPB/DOJ findings. Generally, auto lenders are prohibited from inquiring about an applicant's race. Thus, per the *Journal*, the DOJ in reaching its findings, rather than compiling race data on an individual case basis resorted to using algorithms and guesswork on surnames to reach its conclusions. Thus, a *Jones* in the Bayview was assumed to be African American where as a *Jones* in the Marina was assumed to be Caucasian. Problems started occurring when some of the Bayview *Jones*' started receiving checks from the DOJ settlement and were not the race the agencies had

16.7% of chiefs. Likewise, female members make up 15.3% of the Police Department while composing 20% of sergeants, 21.4% of inspectors, 18% of lieutenants, 14.3% of captains, 20% of commanders, and 16.7% of chiefs. Thus, despite Ho's *Chronicle* headline, in terms of moving up the ranks African Americans and females are only underrepresented at the rank of captain — and that position is deficient by only a fraction of a percent. This is really an immaterial discrepancy.

If the DOJ's data presentation seems selective, some of the actual wording in the DOJ report appears slanted. Page 74 of the DOJ report states that people of color are 39% less likely than white drivers to be

“... ponder whether the DOJ went searching for statistics using fuzzy math to support an agenda handed to them, or if the DOJ was conducting genuine surveys to improve police relations and make our community safer.”

guessed at.

One has to wonder if the algorithm determined “Warren” — as in Senator Elizabeth Warren — to be Native American.

The auto loan findings raised the question of whether the DOJ has an underlying agenda, and that their statistical gathering and analysis were based on an algorithm modeled to produce desired — albeit skewed — results. Within a year of drawing conclusions on auto loans, the DOJ released its findings on racism and the San Francisco Police Department.

Similar to its unusual way of guessing the racial composition of the auto loan market, the DOJ came up with an uncommon way to determine whether SFPD uses racial profiling in traffic stops. To determine the base of racial demographics for San Francisco, the DOJ used the reported race in accident reports, not only on the city streets but also on the freeways above.

Using the demographics of the Bayshore Freeway traffic that is bypassing the city is about as relevant as defining Nebraska a blue state based on the political leanings of the passengers on the transcontinental flights above. It is questionable enough that the DOJ used traffic accidents to determine the City's demographics, but why did the DOJ add freeway traffic, too, unless it was needed to produce the results the feds were trying to back into?

Everyone knows auto insurance premiums are higher for men, new drivers, and students with poor grades because they are more likely to be in accidents. Thus, the feds' findings would be similarly skewed to these segments that are more likely to be in traffic accidents, rather than using a measure that also factored in San Francisco's better drivers.

Finally, unlike the California Highway Patrol, which reports traffic accidents where there is no injury, SFPD only prepares reports if there is an injury. This further skews the sampling effect of freeway accidents when compared to accidents on the surface streets below.

Vivian Ho, of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, fanned the flames of the DOJ's report with her October 14, 2016 article headline: “(Female and minority) officers are underrepresented among Police Department leaders, according to the report.” The DOJ report concluded that African Americans make up of 5.8% of San Francisco's population, but they are not representative of the higher SFPD ranks. African Americans make up, respectively: 7.6% of sergeants, 14.3% of inspectors, 12.6% of lieutenants, 4.8% of captains, 20% of commanders, and

issued a citation when stopped by SFPD — a pretty dramatic statistic! But consider that the feds' statement can be translated to a sentence that is the exact mathematical equivalent: *A Caucasian in San Francisco is 64% more likely to be issued a citation when pulled over than a person of color.* A shocking, headline-grabbing DOJ fact! However, the DOJ probably used “39% less likely,” instead of “64% more likely,” because the smaller number minimized the counter narrative that disparities flow both ways in an imperfect world.

The intention of this article is not to present that SFPD is free of racism. I can assure you prejudice exists, as it does in sports, schools, corporations, or social media. Nor is it the purpose of this article to deny that throughout the history of SFPD, African Americans and females have experienced a level playing field. They have not.

The DOJ report has merit, but the conclusions are compromised by the appearance that more than a little of the feds' thumb was on the scale. It would be naïve to think that the past president's views on law enforcement, discussed in *Dreams From My Father*, did not influence the DOJ's statistical assumptions in the same way the winds of City Hall affect the operations at SFPD.

Last month, despite women being fairly represented in the rank of lieutenant, the current SFPD chief skipped over many male sergeants with superior test scores to promote women at a 30% rate — double the women officers' proportion of SFPD.

One has to wonder if the SFPD Chief based his decision on the *Chronicle's* sensational headlines, rather than on the details of the DOJ report. Or hypothetically, what should a SFPD father say to his kids if he outsourced his wife, but she was promoted over him: “Study harder” — or “Life is just a lottery and test scores are only a front”?

SFPD officers face both political and media headwinds. And, when you see the broken glass on the sidewalk, or read about San Francisco's rising homicide rate, ponder whether the DOJ went searching for statistics using fuzzy math to support an agenda handed to them, or if the DOJ was conducting genuine surveys to improve police relations and make our community safer.

Lou Barberini resides in the West Portal area. He has an MBA in Taxation and worked for investment companies and a Big Four CPA firm. He currently works with clients at Nich Capital Partners ([nichcapitalpartners.com](http://nichcapitalpartners.com)). Lou can be reached personally at [lou.barberini@gmail.com](mailto:lou.barberini@gmail.com)

## The Species Invasions

by Glenn Rogers



### THE MOST RECENT INVASION:

Between 2012 and 2017, over 300 species of foreign creatures traveled over 4,400 miles attached to plastic, fiberglass, styro-foam or other objects to land on the coast of California, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska. The organisms that made the trip were black mussels, purple sea stars, grey barnacles, tangerine colored sea slugs, sea anemones, brown algae, japan's yellow jack and the Asian shore crabs. Some of these organisms came alone, and do no pose a risk until a mate is present to reproduce successfully. Scientists say that 20% of this invasion can reproduce. The 9.0 earthquake that triggered a tsunami, which was the most powerful earthquake ever recorded in Japan, brought waves that reached heights of up to 133 feet and traveled up to six miles inland in Japan, killing approximately 16,000 people. It also caused an invasion of non-native species from Japan.<sup>1</sup>

### BOAT BALLAST WATER DISCHARGE:

Another major point of invasion in the U.S. occurs when the ballast water from foreign ship discharges into U.S. waters to maintain ship balance. When these releases are untreated, they can contain transported invasive species that disrupt the natural ecosystem in the second body of water. The amount of ballast water discharged in U.S. waters exceeds 21 billion gallons each year. Carried in this water are plants, animals, bacteria, and pathogens, from microscopic creatures to large plants and free-swimming fish.<sup>2</sup>

In the San Francisco Bay, we are victim of the Asian clam or the *Corbula amurensis*. Here there are tens of thousands of them in the shallow water. These mollusks are about the size of a thumbnail and have eliminated all other all other invertebrates creating zero biodiversity. They feed on plankton. “Before the clam showed up in the 1980s, large portions of the bay supported extravagant phytoplankton blooms. This algal

plankton nourished huge populations of zooplankton, which buttressed a vast aquatic food web, ranging from tiny fish and crustaceans to big halibut and leopard sharks.”

The Asian clam may be reducing the numbers of delta smelt, considered an indicator of the health of the Delta and a food source for many larger fish in the Bay. The delta smelt is considered almost extinct today with little chance to recover. Now, the Bay is a collection of exotic and native species, with no-one knowing what will be the dominant species next.

To avoid the introduction of these foreign species, ships are required to empty their ballast three miles away from our Bay or to treat the bilge water making it benign. However, this is mostly a volunteer effort.

Other foreign organism in the San Francisco Bay include the water hyacinth, eastern soft-shell clam, hybridized cord grass, green crab, mitten crab, channeled whelk, Atlantic mud snail, oyster drill, the yellow fin goby and the striped bass. Most of these

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Tangerine colored sea slugs



Delta Smelt



Southern Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria



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..... NOVEMBER 2017 .....

*Bits and pieces from around the city...and beyond*



**Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino and Nevada County Fires...** With the fires now being completely out, the hard work begins for everyone affected by this tragedy. Homeowners, renters, business owners and employees are all impacted, while starting to sift through the debris and figuring out how to start over. Please continue to reach out to organizations who bring much-needed

help and assistance to those impacted by the firestorms.

**Donation Information** The best way not to overwhelm shelters is through a volunteer organization. Also, check with evacuation shelters before you bring items to them. Cash and gift cards are the most useful items you can donate.

Visit social media accounts for organizations for the latest updates. The Facebook page of an organization or evacuation center will identify their current needs.

**Sonoma County Fire Info:** [sonomafireinfo.com/](http://sonomafireinfo.com/). This site contains updated information about fires, volunteering, donations, services, etc.

**United Policyholders** provides support for individuals with insurance questions and 24/7 online help: [www.uphelp.org/NorthBayFires](http://www.uphelp.org/NorthBayFires).

The **Volunteer Center of Sonoma County** recommends [SonomaCounty.recovers.org](http://SonomaCounty.recovers.org) The **Center for Volunteer & Nonprofit Leadership** ask volunteers to register here.

**Red Cross: For Sonoma County**, call Red Cross: 707-573-3399 to volunteer or donate.

**Salvation Army** in Santa Rosa has asked for monetary donations as well as: new towels, bulk cleaning supplies, batteries (such as those used in flashlights), personal hygiene products. 93 Stony Circle, Santa Rosa. Call them first at (707) 542-0981. Open til 5 pm.

Here are some other easy ways you can help those affected by the wildfires.

The *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, state Sen. Mike McGuire and the Redwood Credit Union have teamed up to create the **North Bay Fire Relief Fund** to assist victims. 100 percent of donations go directly to those affected: [www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief](http://www.redwoodcu.org/northbayfirerelief)

**Northbayfiredonations.com** is a searchable database (updated daily) of nonprofits, events, services and more supporting fire relief.

**Sub-Zero Nitrogen Ice Cream** is selling «Nor-Cal Strong» t-shirts at \$20 a piece with 100 percent of the proceeds going to the Redwood Credit Union North Bay Fire Relief Fund. So, treat yourself to a cup of organic, liquid nitrogen, ice cream and help wildfire victims in the process. More information: [www.subzeroicecream.com](http://www.subzeroicecream.com)

The **Sonoma County Resilience Fund** is an organization dedicated to address the mid to long term needs of Sonoma County residents and businesses impacted by the wildfires. More information: [www.sonomacounty.org/sonoma-county-resilience-fund](http://www.sonomacounty.org/sonoma-county-resilience-fund)

**Rotary of Sonoma Valley** has assembled an impressive donation page for victims, evacuees and first responders of the wildfires. Their motto is «service over self» and they are pledging 100% of the donations to continue to provide support for all affected by the wildfires. Info: [www.youcaring.com/victimsevacueesandfirstrespondersforsonomafires-977708](http://www.youcaring.com/victimsevacueesandfirstrespondersforsonomafires-977708)

**Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation** is accepting donations that will go directly to agricultural workers and their families hit hard by the wildfires impact on Sonoma's famous wine industry: [www.scggf.org](http://www.scggf.org)

The **Napa and Sonoma County Fire Relief** campaign is collecting money that will go directly to those who deserve it most, the brave men and women fighting the fires. The funds will be spread out to organizations such as: Sonoma Valley and Fire Rescue Authority, Napa County Fire Department and Lake County Fire and Rescue: [www.gofundme.com/napa-sonoma-fires](http://www.gofundme.com/napa-sonoma-fires)

**The California Fire Relief** homepage on GoFundMe is an excellent source of campaigns for those affected by the wildfires. You can help Safari West employees, an autism school or a 10-year-old amputee. Whatever you decide to donate to, it's going to be a good choice. More information: [www.gofundme.com/raise-funds/CAfirerelief](http://www.gofundme.com/raise-funds/CAfirerelief)

In addition to the devastation suffered by the wine industry, the cannabis industry was hit hard by the destruction of the wildfires. YouCaring has set up a **CalGrowers** wildfire recovery fund to assist legal cannabis growers with recovery. More information here: [www.youcaring.com/growersincaliforniawhohavebeenimpactedbywildfires-977705](http://www.youcaring.com/growersincaliforniawhohavebeenimpactedbywildfires-977705)

Those associated with **Santa Rosa Junior College** is another group hit hard by the wildfires. More than a hundred students, staff and faculty members lost their homes to the fires and thousands more have been displaced. SRJC has set up a fire relief fund with all proceeds going directly to the school population affected. More information: [santa-rosajc.ejoinme.org/firerelief](http://santa-rosajc.ejoinme.org/firerelief)

An estimated 28,000 undocumented immigrants live and work in Sonoma County. Due to their immigration status, they are not eligible for FEMA assistance. **Undocufund** makes it possible for one of Sonoma County's largest and most important populations to receive the aid they desperately need: [undocufund.org](http://undocufund.org)

**Wine Country Animal Lovers** has a page that accepts donations which go directly to all animals in need following the wildfires: [www.winecountryanimallovers.org/donate](http://www.winecountryanimallovers.org/donate)

Craft breweries across the County have joined together to create an exclusive «**Sonoma Pride**» beer. All proceeds go directly to wildfire victims: [www.sonomapride.com](http://www.sonomapride.com)

Sonoma County **artists and designers** have lent their talents to creating unique hand-crafted goods with all proceeds going to benefit those affected: [www.sonomamag.com/wine-country-fires-artists-and-designers-create-artwork-decals-prints-for-fire-relief/](http://www.sonomamag.com/wine-country-fires-artists-and-designers-create-artwork-decals-prints-for-fire-relief/)

**Buying wine directly from Sonoma County wineries** is one way to help victims of the wildfires! Here's a list of seven wines you can buy right now to help those affected: [www.sonomamag.com/wine-country-fires-sonoma-wines-buy-right-now-support-fire-relief](http://www.sonomamag.com/wine-country-fires-sonoma-wines-buy-right-now-support-fire-relief)

With the holiday season upon us, reach out to help those in need.

**S F Gardening tips...** Join the folks at Garden for the Environment at their garden (7th Avenue at Lawton St.) any Wednesday or Saturday to help with garden maintenance tasks. You'll work alongside staff and regular volunteers on a range of tasks like composting, planting veggies, pruning, starting seeds, weeding, and more. The best way to learn

## Holiday Parties at The Cliff House



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Large Parties Direct 415-666-4005  
[lauraine@cliffhouse.com](mailto:lauraine@cliffhouse.com)



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is by doing, and you'll learn a lot working in the garden. No registration needed, come and go at any time, and always free. Bring lunch and picnic with us at noon! Closed for Thanksgiving on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sat., Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>. They are conducting classes throughout November as listed below:

**The Edible Garden in November** - Sat Nov 11<sup>th</sup> | 10am to 12pm - Cost: \$25 - Register: [bit.ly/GFEediblenov](http://bit.ly/GFEediblenov)

**Rainwater Harvesting** - Sat Nov 18<sup>th</sup> | 10am to 12pm - Cost: \$10 - but you'll get a \$10 gift card. Sponsored by the SFPUC - Register: [bit.ly/GFERainwaterfall2017](http://bit.ly/GFERainwaterfall2017)

INFO: 7th Ave & Lawton St. | [www.gardenfortheenvironment.org](http://www.gardenfortheenvironment.org) | (415) 558-8246

### Events at the Merced Branch Library...

**Open Hours Assessment Community Hearings | Wednesday - Nov. 8 | 6:30-8 pm**

The Library is undergoing an assessment of our current open hours, required every five years per the Library Preservation Fund ordinance and was last conducted in 2012 with implementation of new hours in 2013. Eleven library locations—each representing a San Francisco supervisorial district—will host Open Hours Community Hearings.

**Knitting Circle | Tuesday, Nov. 14 | 6-7:30 pm** | All levels of knitters, please join us with your knit projects and spread the inspiration! Practice supplies provided, but bring your own if you have a special project in mind. For ages 13 and up.

**Siberia and California: Connections during the Russian Revolution and Civil War | Wednesday, Nov. 15 | 7-8:30 p.m.**

The Institute for Historical Study and the Library are hosting an evening of four presentations by independent scholars. Richard Robbins, professor emeritus, and Maria Sakovich from the Institute; Yves Franquien from the Museum of Russian Culture and Hoover Institute Archives; and Lada Tremsina, author of three books on the civil war.

**Book-A-Librarian: Learn Basic Computer Skills** Choose a topic—searching library databases, setting up an email account, or surfing the Internet. Basic mouse and typing skills required. Sign up in-person or call to book a 45-minute one-on-one session.

**ALL PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY ARE FREE**

Closed on Sat., Nov 11<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran's Day, and Thu., Nov 23 & 24<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving. Info: Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston Dr., (415-355-2825)

**Holiday Fair - Muir Beach...** The Muir Beach Holiday Arts Fair is set for Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 10 am to 5 pm and Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10 am to 4 pm at Muir Beach Community Center, 19 Seascapes Drive —15 minutes from Highway 101 in the charming seaside community of Muir Beach. Shop for original and hand-made fine art, crafts, and gourmet holiday treats. A 40-year tradition — a great reason to escape to the coast and shop for unique gifts. Admission is free and a shuttle patrols the streets to help anyone who needs a ride. Info: Laurie Piel at (415) 388-8319 or check out their website: [www.muirbeachartsfair.com](http://www.muirbeachartsfair.com)



**Did you know...?** The annual world-wide happening known as «Santa-Con» started in San Francisco in 1994. **Santacon SF** will occur on December 9 at noon at Union Square.

**Shopping «local»** ... this is just a reminder to shop local when you can. Our city is unique with many «village-like» commercial venues such as West Portal Avenue,

Ocean Avenue, Irving St., Columbus Avenue, Taraval St., etc. With online shopping chipping away at sales, and the cost of rents skyrocketing, we need to continue to support our neighborhood «retail-warriors» while they are here for us. You don't have to look closely to see increasing vacancies in all of the districts, from the Sunset to the Castro and everywhere in between. I know that parking can be problematic, but if you can shop locally, it helps everyone. Studies show that over 50% of the dollars spent at locally owned establishments stay in the local economy.

Do you have an event, a neighborhood fact or just an observation to share? Drop us a line at [mitch@westsideobserver.com](mailto:mitch@westsideobserver.com) and share your ideas or just let us know what you think.



Health Matters • Sharone Franzen

Boosting Your Immunity

Every fall and winter, up to twenty percent of us catch the flu. The average adult gets 2-4 colds per year, while kids get sick even more often. While many of us are resigned to getting sick at least once a year, there are ways to prepare for the coming season other than stocking up on tissues and over-the-counter cold relievers. We can prepare ourselves for the next onslaught of viruses by boosting our internal defenses.



Most of us subscribe to what is known as “germ theory,” which states that if you are exposed to a virus, you’ll get sick – period. This concept is largely credited to Louis Pasteur, who some say refuted his own theory on his deathbed, admitting: “the microbe is nothing; the terrain is everything.” Many ancient healing traditions work from the notion that a person’s physical condition is the soil in which a contagion may take seed – so a strong body will fight off an illness, while a weak body will fall ill with whatever is making the rounds. For example, Chinese medicine differentiates between the effects of a strong pathogen, and the constitution of the person who is exposed to the pathogen. Those who are stronger will mount a defense quickly (such as by fever), and will overcome the illness quickly as well. Those with weaker constitutions will experience a slower progress of the pathogen, with an even slower recovery.

The truth about how we get sick probably lies somewhere between germs and their terrain. As genetic researchers are now finding, merely carrying a genetic mutation does not guarantee that the gene will turn on. Lifestyle choices can determine whether or not someone’s “faulty” gene gets expressed. Furthermore, during every plague, there were always a few people who fell ill, but somehow survived. How was that possible? We are exposed to viruses everywhere – and more so during the fall and winter months – but if we build our immunity, our body has more resources to mount a defense against them.

If you know that you catch at least

one cold a year, you can take a proactive approach against getting sick, instead of waiting for what may seem like the inevitable. You can take control of your own health using the following old-fashioned, simple strategies.

**Sleep.** This is the easiest and most enjoyable way to boost your immunity. The Mayo Clinic asserts that not only will a lack of sleep lower your resistance to colds and flu, it may lengthen your recovery time if you do get sick. During the winter months, eight hours per night should be seen as a minimum rather than the ultimate goal. Those who worry that sleeping more will cut into their productivity should ask themselves how much they get done when they catch a cold every few months. And if you do catch a bug, go to bed and sleep as long as you can – you may feel better the next day.

**Eat well.** This one may not be as easy as sleeping, but it’s essential. Sticking to whole foods and avoiding packaged snacks and meals will give your body the nutrition it needs for optimal function. Vitamin C is often recommended for treating common colds, but it’s far better to get plenty of this nutrient to *prevent* getting sick. Foods such as blueberries, bell peppers, kiwi, and kale beat out the commonly-cited citrus fruits for Vitamin C content. Eating vegetables

at every meal ensures that you will get the Vitamin C you need, and crowds out the unhealthy food-like products that weigh down your body.

**Chicken soup is not just for colds.** Drinking bone broth daily may help bolster your immune system, and the key lies in the marrow. Our own bone marrow produces cells – lymphocytes – that support the body’s immunity, and homemade broth with the marrow included makes a good supplement. For those of you who are making your own bone broth, the first couple of hours of simmering yield the best broth for enhancing immunity. Crack the bones open and let the marrow flow out into the broth. A squeeze of lemon juice in the broth just before eating lends a bit of Vitamin C, and the acidity helps assimilate the minerals left by the bones. A pinch of pink salt makes the broth a delicious cold-weather treat.

**Stay out of the cold and wind.** This is advice straight out of grandma’s book, and is contested by most germ theorists. But exposure to the extremes of nature draws off energy from the body, leaving fewer resources for the immune system. How often does one “catch a chill” after spending a lovely day in the warm sunshine? Cold and flu are more prevalent during the colder months because that’s when our defenses are down. Besides, isn’t it nicer to stay warm with a cozy sweater, or cuddle up under a blanket?

**Get some sun.** The Vitamin D Council recommends five thousand IU’s per day of Vitamin D in supplement form, but you can get that much in a few minutes of sun exposure. Although you won’t need to worry about sunscreen during the winter, it may be hard to get enough direct

exposure if it’s cloudy. In summer, a few minutes of sun in the early morning or late evening without sunscreen will be enough. If you’d rather take a supplement, check that it won’t interfere with any medications you may be taking.

**Take some herbs.** The Chinese have used astragalus for centuries to build immunity and increase energy. It can be boiled into soup stock, taken as a tea, or swallowed in a capsule. Just be sure to take a little every day, and stop taking it if you do come down with something. It’s also not recommended for those who frequently get stress-related headaches, due to its upward-bearing function. On the other hand, a good quality echinacea works as both a daily immune tonic, and can be taken every hour if you do catch a cold. To test the echinacea for quality, check two things: one, good quality usually costs more; and two, if it’s in tablet or liquid form, it will make your mouth tingle if you leave it on your tongue for a few seconds. Both of these herbs take a few weeks or months to work; don’t expect them to be the magic bullet.

**See your acupuncturist.** Much research has been done to prove the effectiveness of acupuncture treatments on bolstering the immunity in those with suppressed immune systems such as HIV / AIDS, or those undergoing chemotherapy. Additionally, acupuncture has been used for millennia to build the body’s defenses against many chronic diseases. If you got more than one bout of cold or flu last year, make this year a better one and ask your acupuncturist to put you on a wellness program. He or she can help you with herbs as well.

It would be nearly impossible to avoid all exposure to colds and flu this winter. The only thing you can control is the health of your internal terrain. Give your immune system some support *before* you get sick.

*Sharone Franzen runs an acupuncture clinic in Lakeside Village.*

Garrett and Elaine Lim Hurley, happy clients with their one-year-old daughter in their new forever home.



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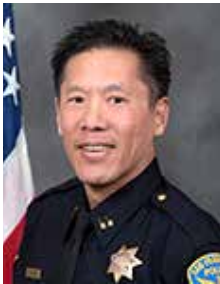
TARAVAL STATION Crime Report



Captain Denise Flaherty

Captain Denise Flaherty Moves On, Welcome to Captain Robert Yick

For three years, Captain Denise Flaherty has done an excellent job improving public safety in the District. She was accessible, easily available and brought a transparency to the position that



Captain Robert Yick

we hope will continue. The Westside Observer extends its my appreciation to Captain Flaherty as Captain of the Taraval Police District.

Taraval's new Police Captain is Robert Yick. He came to us after two years at the UC Berkeley Police Department in 1994, working as a Field Training Officer at Central Station in North Beach area. Transferred to the Richmond, worked as uniformed and plain clothes officer. Promoted to inspector and sergeant, he worked Night Investigations, Domestic Violence, and at the Operations Bureau as liaison to the patrol special officers. Promoted to lieutenant, he spent more time at Central Station, then transferred to Internal Affairs at the Mission Station where he also operated as SIT.

After 25 years in law enforcement, we are confident that Captain Yick's breadth of experience will serve our community and advance public safety for our residents. We are pleased to learn that he will reinstate the monthly interaction with residents on the third Tuesday of every month at 6 pm at the Taraval Community Room. Coffee-with-a-Cop sessions are also planned to be regularly scheduled.

**Fraud Alert** The SFPUC is warning customers to be aware of a recent telephone scam involving water bills. Over the past several days, dozens of customers say they have received a call from someone impersonating a representative of "SF Utilities," threatening to shut off water service unless immediate cash payment is made at Walgreen's, CVS and Rite Aid stores. These calls are not coming from the SFPUC. The agency directs customers to pay their water bills only at authorized payment locations. If you receive such a call, contact the Federal Trade Commission at 877-382-4357. If you have questions about yourr water bill, call the SFPUC customer service at 415-551-3000.

— Taraval Station Community Meeting —  
Tuesday, November 21 | 6 pm –7 pm • Taraval Police Station • taraval.org

Sunday - October 1

**Battery**  
9:48 pm | Ocean Ave & Lakewood Ave  
The victim was bleeding from his forehead and nose, said that he was talking to the female suspect when two male suspects suddenly came up from behind him and started punching him. He couldn't recall further information about the incident.

Wednesday - October 4

**Robbery**  
5:14 pm | 700 Irving St  
The victim said three suspects hit him and stole his property. The female suspect had also attempted to steal his backpack. Afterwards, he saw the suspect and confronted her. She and her friend hit him, got on a motorcycle and fled.  
**Robbery – Arrested**  
12:25 pm | 19th Ave & Lincoln Way  
The victim said she was leaving Golden Gate Park with her baby when she felt someone taking her cell phone out of her rear pocket. She turned and yelled for help and he grabbed her and throw her down. When some people approached to help her he threw her phone down and fled. Officers found the suspect and he was arrested.

Friday - October 6

**Burglary Arrest – Arrested**  
11:31 pm | 2500 17th Ave  
A suspect of a church rectory burglary was identified through finger printing and officers on patrol located the suspect in front of a restaurant. The suspect was arrested.  
**Possession of Burglary Tools – Arrested**  
Great Hwy & Victente St | 11:36 pm  
Officers on patrol saw the suspect" casing" cars as he walked by. Seeing police, he walked away. When the officers found he was on probation, a search revealing a spark plug, window punches and methamphetamine. The suspect was arrested.

Saturday - October 7

**Possession for Sale – Possession of a Control Substance – Cited**  
6:18 pm | 3200 20th Ave  
A witness reported a gun at the suspect's waistband, and when officers found the

suspect, he was searched without incident. The gun was later determined to be a starter pistol, meant to shoot blanks. The search found 2 iPhone 8 cell phones and several bags of marijuana packaged to be sold and prescription medication. Then officers matched the description and serial number for a robbery, involving an iPhone 8. Since he was a juvenile, he was cited.

Wednesday - October 11

**Assault on a Police Officer – Arrested**  
8:45 pm | Delong St & Crystal St.  
A plain clothes officer, a sergeant, reported that the suspect left his vehicle jumping fences through back yards after an armed robbery. When he arrived on scene with his SFPD star in view, the suspect tried to run him over, jumping back into his vehicle he avoided being struck. After surrounding the area to search, the suspect was arrested.  
**Assault**  
10:30 pm | Taraval St & 21st Ave  
The victim said he was sitting in his vehicle when the suspect came up and asked to use his cell phone. When he refused, the suspect punched him several times in the face. When he regained consciousness the suspect was gone.

Thursday - October 12

**Robbery**  
8:25 pm | 800 Brotherhood Way  
At the Armenian Cultural Foundation's Bingo Night the victim, who was in charge of taking the money was robbed. The suspect pointed a gun at him and told him not to move, while he took all the cash out of the metal cash register as well as the cash for the next game's payout. A second suspect was also observed, and both suspects immediately fled afterwards.

Saturday - October 14

**Battery**  
2:41 am | Wawona St & 39th Ave  
The victim said he and his friends were passengers in an Uber vehicle earlier and were telling jokes when the driver suddenly stopped the vehicle and told them to get out. When they did, the driver pushed him several times and punched him in the

face, then got back into his vehicle and drove away.

Monday - October 16

**Assault – Resisting Arrest**  
2:05 pm | 1500 48th Ave  
The victim said he and his landlord argued over money and the landlord threw the victim's belongings out of the house and swung an axe at him and that the suspect owned multiple weapons. Officers were able to get the suspect out of the house. with the SFPD Hostage Negotiation and Tactical team. A search warrant was obtained and the axe, various firearms and ammunition were found. He was arrested.

Tuesday - October 17

**Robbery**  
3:03 pm | Ulloa St & West Portal Ave  
The victim was on the streetcar looking at her phone, with her ear buds on, when a suspect suddenly came from behind and grabbed her iPhone. He immediately fled despite a struggle for it's possession.  
**Assault – Arrested**  
3:01 pm |800 Taraval St  
The victim, who was in a lot of pain and bleeding from a head wound may have lost consciousness. A witness said three suspects were punching and hitting him. Apparently, the victim asked the suspects to move while they were all on a streetcar. They refused to move and during the argument, took the victim's property and threw it off at a stop. When he left to retrieve his property, the suspects got off to assault him. All three suspects were arrested.  
**Burglary of a Vehicle – Arrested**  
7:42 pm | 19th Ave & Rivera St  
A witness said two suspects were breaking into his friend's mobile home. One suspect told responding officers the mobile home was stolen from him several days ago and they were retrieving their property. However, the victim said he purchased and lived in the mobile home. A check confirmed the owner and a search of the suspects found his property. They were arrested.

Wednesday - October 18

**Robbery**  
11:22 am | 1600 24th Ave  
When the victim returned home after shopping, she was dragged into the house by three suspects. When she refused to relinquish her purse, one suspect lifted her up and slammed her on the ground, punching her several times in the eye. When they obtained the purse, they fled.  
**Battery**  
1:39 pm |1200 Noriega St  
The victim said he was in a bar when his friend was pushed to the ground by the suspect. When he confronted him the suspect punched him in the face. The bar's security broke up the fight and the victim and his friend both left the bar.  
**Battery**  
4:07 pm | 700 Font Blvd  
A driver attempted to pick up a fare which was cancelled shortly after he arrived. He tried to leave but another car pulled up in front of him and blocked him. When he honked his horn the suspect put up his middle finger. He maneuvered around the suspect's car and gave him the peace sign with two fingers, and drove away but the suspect followed him. When he stopped, the suspect got out and punched him. When he took out a knife, the suspect went to his car and took out a gun, pointed at the driver and told him to move back. The suspect then got into his car and fled.  
**Theft – Battery – Arrested**  
9:34 am | Taraval St & 19th Ave  
A woman flagged down a patrol car and said she was using her cell phone, while on a streetcar, when four juvenile suspects got on. One of the juveniles snatched her phone and all four exited. When a witness stopped the suspects a fight ensued, and the suspect dropped phone. They fled on a second bus. Officers stopped the bus and detained the suspects. After further investigation, all four suspects were arrested.

**Thursday - October 19**  
**Battery – Vandalism to Vehicle**

5:05 pm | 19th Ave & Winston Dr  
A MUNI bus driver, said the suspect put his bicycle on the rack and paid his fare but when she requested that he step behind the yellow line on the floor, the he grabbed her hat and threw it on to the ground. She stopped the bus and told passengers the bus would power down until a supervisor arrived. He struck her in the eye, left the bus and retrieved his bicycle, then broke a bus window.

**Theft – Arrested**  
9:15 am | Taraval St & 15th Ave  
A woman on a streetcar was using her phone when two juvenile suspects grabbed it and fled, but she chased after them. When the suspect dropped her phone she retrieved it, but the suspect told her not to call the police since she had her phone back. Officers found the suspects and after further investigation, they were arrested.

Friday - October 20

**Robbery**  
7:03 pm | 1700 Ocean Ave  
A woman was preparing to ship two laptop computers to a relative at a UPS store when a suspect snatched her laptop. She followed to get it back but the suspect pushed her, got into a waiting vehicle and fled.  
**Assault – Under the Influence**  
6:08 pm | 400 Serrano Dr  
A woman was parking her car with her family when the suspect pointed a shotgun at her from another car. When she tried to drive away, he walked up to them began acting oddly. She believed using drugs. He asked if she was following him and that his life was in danger adding that he didn't mean to scare them. He shook her hand and walked away. When officers found him, he said he smoked methamphetamine earlier and believed that someone was after him. He was arrested.

Saturday - October 21

**Stolen Property – Burglary Tools – Cited**  
6:26 pm | 1500 Sloat Blvd  
A clerk said two suspects took numerous jackets in a shopping cart and fled the store. Officers found them and a shopping cart full of jackets with store sensors and tags intact. They also found a pair of needle nose pliers—commonly used to remove sensors, in one of the suspect's hands. The suspects were cited.

Sunday - October 22

**Driving While Intoxicated – Arrested**  
10:26 pm | Sloat Blvd & 34th Ave  
While a car was driving along, a car rear-ended him, causing it to bounce off and hit a nearby light pole. Park Rangers and medical personnel were assisting an unconscious driver, when officers arrived, and made the other car and immediately smelled an odor of alcohol on the driver's breath and found an open container of vodka inside. Due to his injuries, he was transported to SFGH where a blood test confirmed intoxication. He will be arrested when cleared by doctors.  
**Reckless Driving – Cited**  
2:58 pm | Taraval St & Wawona St  
Officers observed a driver, who was unbalanced, get into a car which had no license plate. Driving down Taraval Street he narrowly missed a collision with oncoming traffic after crossing over a double solid yellow line. Then he passed several cars that were stopped at a stop sign and made a left turn on 19th Avenue against a red light. During a traffic stop, a check revealed that

Cont to page 17

  
**Tuesday Nov. 14, 2017 9:00am-11:00am**  
  
**Starbucks 1800 Irving St And 19th Ave**  
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## November Calendar

### EVERY SUNDAY • FARMERS MARKET

**Every Sun | 9 am–1 pm** | Stonestown rear parking lot: at Stonestown Galleria (19th Ave @ Winston).

### EVERY SUNDAY • VICTORIAN TOUR

**Sundays | 2 pm** | Victorian era architecture of the city's first suburb - Lafayette Square. SF's illustrious history, steep streets & fabulous views! 1801 Bush St. garden. Donations OK. MUNI 1, 3. [sfcityguides.org](http://sfcityguides.org)

### EVERY TUE/THU /SAT • GET IN SHAPE!

**Tue/Thu | 8:30 am | Sat: 9 am** | Get into shape. FREE exercise classes. SF State & Rec and Park. Turf field at Minnie & Lovie Ward Park, 650 Capitol. [100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com](mailto:100citizens.sfsu@gmail.com), [www.100citizens.org](http://www.100citizens.org)

### EVERY TUES • QUE SYRAH HAPPY HOUR

**Every Tue Happy Hour | 4–8 pm** | Que Syrah Wine Bar. Take \$1 off each glass, 10% off each bottle (consumed on site). 230 West Portal Ave 731-7000

### EVERY THURS - NIGHTLIFE

**Every Thu | 6–10 pm** | The Academy of Sciences brings live music, science, mingling and cocktails. GG Park \$15 (\$12 Members). [calademy.org/nightlife](http://calademy.org/nightlife).

### JAZZ FRIDAYS @ THE CLIFF HOUSE

**Every Fri | 7–11 pm** | The Balcony Lounge at the Cliff House hosts jazz every Fri night. 1 Seal Rock.

[cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html](http://cliffhouse.com/home/jazz.html).

### FRIDAY NIGHTS @ THE DEYOUNG

**Every Fri | 5–8:45 pm** | Music, poetry, films, dance, tours and lectures. Cafe: special dinner, no-host bar. Art-making children/adults. deYoung Museum, GG Park. [deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays](http://deyoung.famsf.org/deyoung/fridays)

### FRIDAYS @ OFF THE GRID/FT. MASON

**Every Fri | DJs 5-7:30/Bands 7:30-10: pm** | Over 32 food trucks and street food carts in a huge circle with a full bar and bands in the middle? That's a party! Free. Ft. Mason Ctr. Two Marina Blvd.

### SAT • FREE E-BOOKS

**Sat 3-4 pm** | More than 40,000 free eBooks with one-on-one help from a librarian. Bring your Kindle, iPad, smartphone etc. 20 minute appointments available. RSVP: [info@sfspl.org](mailto:info@sfspl.org) with preferred date/time, and device. Main Library, 100 Larkin St.

### SUN • COMMUNITY YOGA

**Every Sun | 10 am** | Bring Your Own Mat for some outdoor yoga at Playland at 43rd Ave. All classes are FREE and DROP IN. (Rain cancels.) 1360 43rd Ave & Judah. Info: Playland Yoga Facebook Page

### DAILY • ART OF EYVIND EARLE

**Daily (except Tue) | 10 am - 6 pm** | Best known as the lead stylist for Walt Disney's classic *Sleeping Beauty* (1959) and for concept art as well as his popular silk-screened prints. Walt Disney Family Museum, 104Montgomery, Presidio. Closed Tuesdays.

### DAILY • BOOK-A-LIBRARIAN

**Learn Basic Computer Skills**—searching databases, setting up email, or surfing the web. Basic mouse skills required. Call 355-2825 to make an appointment. Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston.

### FRI • HOLIDAY ON ICE RINK

**Fri Nov 3 - Jan 7 | Sun-Thu: 10 am - 9:30 pm / Fri-Sat: 10 am - 11:30 pm** | The Bay Area's largest outdoor ice rink, a beautiful city setting for three decades Justin Herman Plaza, adjacent to Four Embarcadero Center and across from the historic Ferry Building. \$12 • (8 & under) \$7 • Skate Rental \$5. May be closed due to inclement weather or private-party bookings. Current info: 415.837.1931

### WED • AUTHOR LAUREN MARKHAM

**Wed Nov 8 | 7 pm** | Journalist Markham follows the 17-year-old Flores twins across the Rio Grande into the hands of immigration — to their estranged older brother's custody in Oakland — navigating a new school in a new language, working to pay down their mounting coyote debt, and facing their day in immigration court with only each other for support. Bookstore West Portal, 80 West Portal.

### SAT • AUTHOR ANNE FADIMAN

**Sat Nov 11 | 7 pm** | Fadiman will be discussing her memoir, *The Wine Lover's Daughter*. A special Saturday evening event for lovers of both wine and literature. Bookstore West Portal, 80 West Portal.

### SUN • 100TH VETERANS DAY PARADE

### KLIMT & RODIN: AN ARTISTIC ENCOUNTER • OCTOBER 14 - JANUARY 28

Upon the centennial of their deaths, Klimt & Rodin: An Artistic Encounter explores the dialogue between the work of French sculptor Auguste Rodin (1840–1917) and Austrian painter Gustav Klimt (1862–1918) and examines their numerous connections, ranging from their mutual interest in the human form to their philosophical outlooks on the world.

For the first time on the West Coast, see the full evolution of Klimt's work—from his early and academically applauded work to his provocative and critically debated mature style, as seen here in *The Virgin*. A pioneer of modernism in Vienna, Klimt produced only a very limited number of canvases over his career. Many of these canvases are deemed too fragile to travel, making a sizable display of his work a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. Tix: \$30 - 27 (Sr) - 21 (Std) - 15 (Yth) - Members: free.

**Sun Nov 12 | 11 am** | Honor and remember the end of World War II at Fishermans Wharf, Jefferson Street, North Point to Leavenworth St.

### SUN • TEA FESTIVAL

**Sun Nov 12 | 11 am to 5 pm** | Taste teas from local and global producers. Free swag bag includes your very own teacup to savor tea. Access to hundreds of different types of tea in our tea market. Ferry Bldg.

### MON • BALBOA ADVISORY CMMT.

**Mon Nov 13 | 6 pm** | Participate and provide feedback on the proposal to build the Balboa Reservoir Project at City College, Multi-Use Building, Room 140, 55 Phelan Ave.

### TUE • COFFEE WITH A COP

**Tue Nov 4 | 9-11 am** | Join your Taraval District officers for coffee and conversation. Starbucks, 1800 Irving Street @ 19th Avenue.

### TUE • MARIJUANA DISPENSARY APPEAL

**Tue Nov 14 | 3 pm** | The Planning Commission approved a Medical Cannabis Dispensary, at 2161-2165 Irving Street (X 22nd and 23rd Ave). The Board of Supervisors will hold a hearing. You can submit your comments to each Supervisor via email. Contact Katy Tang's office at (415) 554-7460.

### TUE • STARRING THE ROCK—ALCATRAZ

**Tue Nov 14 | 7:30 pm** | Alcatraz in the movies with Jim Van Buskirk co-author of *Celluloid San Francisco: The Film Lover's Guide to Bay Area Movie Locations* celebrates the 80th anniversary of The Rock as a setting in movies and its 50th anniversary as an actual filming location. Roosevelt Middle School Auditorium, 460 Arguello Blvd (at Geary) \$10 non-members (\$5 students, teachers, seniors, and pw disabilities).

### WED • RUSSIANS!

**Wed Nov 15 | 7–8:30 pm** | Siberia and California: Connections - Institute for Historical Study and the Merced Branch Library are hosting four presentations: "The Russian Civil War," "Civil War-Related Archives and the Museum of Russian Culture," "The Russian Civil War through the Camera of a Young Officer," and "The Refugee Experience through Siberia." Merced Branch Library, 155 Winston, 415 355-2825.

### THU • 66 QUINTARA RECONFIGURATION

**Thu Nov 16 | 6-8 pm** | SFMTA will host an upcoming community meeting The meeting will cover survey findings, alternatives analyzed, potential route alignment alternatives and service improvements Wiegand Theater at St. Ignatius Prep 2001 37th Ave.

### FRI • DOCENT TOUR: OLD US MINT

**Nov 17 | 3 pm** | Journey through 150 years of history with a CHS docent who will share unique stories, discuss the architecture, and answer questions about the Old U.S. Mint. 85 Fifth St. Bottom of stairs. CA Historical Society \$10.

### FRI • AUTHOR VICTORIA SWEET

**Fri Nov 17 | 7 pm** | *Slow Medicine, A Guide to Healing* by former Laguna Honda physician Victoria Sweet also wrote *God's Hotel*, she is also a prizewinning historian with a Ph.D. in history and social medicine, and the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship. Bookshop West Portal, 80 West Portal.

### SAT • LET IT SNOW BOUTIQUE

**Sat Nov 18 | 10 am - 3 pm** | Little Sisters of the Poor present handmade ornaments, dish towels, wreaths, table top décor, homemade jams & gourmet goodies A seated lunch at 11:30 a.m. or at 1 p.m. at \$55/ per person. 300 Lake Street.

### SAT • 60TH INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

**Sat Nov 18 - Sun Nov 26** | Various times | The show features the world's major manufacturers displaying their 2018 model cars, SUV's, trucks and vans. Moscone Convention Center, 747 Howard St., North and South Halls plus the Esplanade Ballroom. \$10 [www.sfautoshow.com](http://www.sfautoshow.com)

### SUN • CHINESE IN THE SUNSET

**Sun Nov 19 thru Dec 20** | Chinese in the Sunset illustrates the history of racial restrictions that once prevented Chinese and other people of color from living in the neighborhoods. Sunset Recreation Center (2201 Lawton Street)

### SUN • CHOCOLATE SHOW

**Nov 19 | 10 am - 5 pm** | Taste fine artisan and gourmet chocolates and confections at the Fall Chocolate Salon in the SF County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park, 1199 9th Ave at Lincoln Way.

### TUE • ST. CECELIA'S K-6 OPEN HOUSE

**Tue Nov 21 | 8:30 - 10 am** | Presentation and Tour. No reservation required. 660 Vicente St.

### TUE • POLICE COMMUNITY MEETING

**Tue Nov 21 | 6-7 pm** | Meet with the Captain and his team at the Taraval Police Station 2345 24th Ave. 3rd Tuesday each month • [taraval.org](http://taraval.org)

### THU • SF TURKEY TROT

**Wed Nov 23 | 8 am** Kids Gobbler Chase | **8:40 am** Turkey Trail Trot and Pilgrim Promenade | Come kick off a great Thanksgiving with an invigorating fun

## NOVEMBER 2017 BESTSELLERS

- Before You Know It: The Unconscious Reasons We Do What We Do**  
by John Bargh, PhD\*
- What Happened**  
by Hillary Rodham Clinton
- Manhattan Beach**  
by Jennifer Egan
- Leonardo Da Vinci**  
by Walter Isaacson
- Sourdough**  
by Robin Sloan\*
- Origin**  
by Dan Brown
- Uncommon Type: Some Stories**  
by Tom Hanks\*
- We Were Eight Years in Power**  
by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- A Gentleman in Moscow**  
by Amor Towles
- Where the Past Begins: A Writer's Memoir**  
by Amy Tan\*
- Astrophysics for People in a Hurry**  
by Neil Degrasse Tyson
- Grant**  
by Ron Chernow
- My Absolute Darling**  
by Gabriel Tallent
- The Hacking of the American Mind: The Science Behind the Corporate Takeover of Our bodies and Brains**  
by Robert H. Lusgit, MD, MSL\*
- Slow Medicine: The Way to Healing**  
by Victoria Sweet\*

\* Spoke at BookShop West Portal; signed copies available.

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?



Now At the Movies • Don Lee Miller

**ATOMIC BLONDE**  
M16 agent: Charlize Theron R: sequences of strong violence, profanity throughout, and some sexuality/nudity.

**BABY DRIVER**  
Music-obsessed getaway driver named Baby: Ansel Elgort waitress: Lily James tough crime boss: Kevin Spacey R: Violence and profanity throughout

**DUNKIRK**  
The key to writer-director Christopher Nolan's fine work re early WWII has 40,000 British troops stranded on the French coastline. The militia being evacuated are three stories intermixed, each with a different time constraint. One with one hour, another with a day and the third with a week—all are plunged into the same pot and stirred. The pilot, Farrier: Tom Hardy and a small boat captain, Mr. Dawson: Mark Rylande (2015 Oscar winner for Bridge of Spies) are the only stars. The cinematographer picks up the worried expressions of anguish. Well worth seeing; expect it to be around at Oscar-time. PG-13: Intense war experience and some profanity.

**GIRLS TRIP**  
Regina Hall, Queen Latifah, Jada Pinkett Smith, Tiffany Haddish to New Orleans  
R: Crude and sexual content throughout, pervasive profanity (including female body parts, inside and out), brief graphic nudity, and drug material.

**THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD**  
Do ya wanna join European street car chases every twelve minutes with hundreds of shots being fired

and bodies dropping? World-class bodyguard Michael Bryce: Ryan Reynolds protects an expensive assassin with a sense of humor, Darius Kincaid: Samuel L. Jackson. They have good chemistry between them. The ruthless antagonist, evil dictator Vladislav Dukhovich: Gary Oldman is on trial by Interpol who agrees to release Sonia: Salma Hyack, the sassy-tongued wife of Kincaid if he testifies against VD. MB and DK are ambushed en route to their destination but escape, with scratches. The profanity-laden jokes sometimes fall short of their goal. All they need is a lazy dawg. Low flights over The Hague provide a view of how much progress has been made since maidens wore blue dresses with white aprons and wooden shoes. Patrick Hughes directs effectively, particularly in the action/comedy dept. R: Strong violence and pervasive profanity throughout.

**LUCKY LOGAN**  
West Virginia brothers Jimmy: Channing Tatum and Clyde: Adam Driver plan to rob Charlotte (S.C.) Motor Speedway. Joe Bang: Daniel Craig, a hayseed demolitions expert funny comedy. PG-13: Profanity and some crude comments

**WAR FOR THE PLANET OF THE APES**  
Woody Harrelson, Andy Serkis. PG-13: Sequences of sci-fi violence and action, thematic elements, and some disturbing images.

**WONDER WOMAN**  
Capt. Steve Trevor: Chris Pine Diana: PG-13: Sequences of violence and action, and some suggestive content.



## A bit of Pantomime packs in an audience at Dickens Faire

by Jonathan Farrell

Last year the Waldo Grade Tunnel connecting Marin to San Francisco, often seen by many as the 'rainbow tunnel' got renamed officially as The Robin Williams Tunnel. It has been three years since his death. Yet his legacy as an entertainer, actor and comedian endures. No doubt he would fit right in with the vast array of characters, cast, and crew of the annual Great Dickens Christmas Faire.

Amid the many things to see and do, the Dickens Faire has dozens of live shows. Once again the Stark Ravens Historical Players will be performing "The Surprising Tale of Baron Munchausen and Mopsa the Fairy."

Based in part upon the 18th Century Raspe text, which was also the inspiration for the 1988 film "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" this family-friendly live show has original music and songs. Interestingly, as the show's director Heidi Wohlwend noted, "Robin Williams was uncredited in the Terry Gilliam film. He played the part of the 'King of The Moon.' And, we like to think that if he was still here he would relish that we are reprising the role. Yes, in our little production we do have the 'King of The Moon,' in it."

The Westside Observer was able to chat with Wohlwend amid a busy schedule of rehearsals and preparations. As the month of December draws closer, the intensity increases. Curious to know what an 18th Century fantasy had to do with the Dickens Fair, she replied. "The Munchausen story was widely read and he was a well-known character. We mixed him with a children's fairy story called Mopsa the Fairy.

"This is a form of theater known as pantomime. Hearing the word 'pantomime' people think of charades or Marcel Marceau, miming in make-up. A pantomime in 19th Century Victorian England was a

form of theater that consisted of a fairytale, with dancing, singing and a big transformation scene where the principal characters are turned into clowns. The ending piece of the show is called a harlequinade. This consists of slapstick clowning bits or lazzi."

She explained "pantomime finds its origins from the Commedia dell'arte which was very popular in Italy in the 16th Century. As it spread through Europe, aspects of it appeared in English theaters and street performances. Much of what we know here as Vaudeville comes from this tradition. The clown or jester, prat falls, anything zany, rambunctious or romantic is all part of this tradition.

London's Victoria and Albert Museum, as well as British historian Judith Flanders among others, confirms, that while pantomime lends itself to lots of imaginative interpretations, Wohlwend said that "Baron Munchausen is a central character, sort of like an English version of Don Quixote. The Baron is tilting at the windmills of the restrictions of authority, defying the rules of logic and reason. He is able to face adversity, tragedy, and death with humor. In fact he beats death in the end; much like Mr. Punch vanquishes the devil in the Punch and Judy show. And, don't we all want to do that? Don't we want to choose life and love over evil? The Baron's absurdity shows us the beauty and timelessness of enduring love.

"This is our second year

performing this production, and while our first few shows were sparsely attended last year, we finished the season performing to packed houses. Parents sometimes get a bit confused but the kids love it, and for them it is easy to follow."

The Stark Ravens Historical Players have been putting productions up at the Dickens Faire and other events since 2000. As Wohlwend said, "we are very grass roots. We do all this ourselves on a very limited budget and within a limited venue space. But it is a very rich experience, and to have people sing along is exhilarating and rewarding," she said.

West Portal residents can get to the Faire at the Cow Palace by transferring from the K-Ingleside trolley at West Portal station to the #8 San Bruno MUNI bus from West Portal and 14th Avenue.

"The Surprising Tale of Baron Munchausen and Mopsa the Fairy: or how Munchausen, Jack and Mopsa the Fairy defeat evil Queen Edwina Picklewurst and save Fairyland," will be playing at the Victoria & Albert Bijou Music Hall at the Dickens Fair inside The Cow Palace during the run of The Great Dickens Christmas Fair from the week-end of Nov. 18 to the weekend of Dec. 17. For details on show times, ticket prices and other information, visit the Dickens Fair web site at: dickensfair.com/entertainment

## San Francisco SALUTE TO VETERAN'S PARADE

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017 11AM  
FISHERMAN'S WHARF  
Jefferson Street  
North Point to Leavenworth St.



## Honor & Remember WORLD WAR ONE 100TH 1917-2017

run or walk in the park—before feasting commences! Polo Field, GG Park - sanfranciscoturkeytrot.com

**SAT • SMALL BIZ SATURDAY**  
Sat Nov 25 | All day | First there was Black Friday, then Cyber Monday. November 27, 2010 was the first ever Small Business Saturday—the day we shop small local businesses. The Saturday after Thanksgiving is Small Business Saturday.

**SAT • GINGERBREAD HOUSE**  
Nov 25 - Jan. 1, 2018 | See the two-story giant Gingerbread House made of thousands of home-baked gingerbread bricks and more than a ton of icing and candy Fairmont hotel. Free, but you may have to wait in line. 950 California

**MON • LABOUNTY/SHARP**  
Mon Nov 27 | 7 pm | The History of Sunset Heights, 1920s to present, with Woody LaBounty at S.H.A.R.P. 1736 Ninth Avenue (between Moraga and Noriega).

**MON • CENTRAL COUNCIL**  
Mon Nov 27 | 7:30 | West of Twin Peaks Central Council meets the 4th Monday of the month to discuss local topics. Forest Hills Clubhouse, 381 Magellan Ave. westoftwinpeaks.org

**TUE • R. ROSS MAGIC LANTERN**  
Tue Nov 28 | 7 pm | SF History Assn. President Ron Ross will share rare magic lantern slides, featuring early San Francisco, including 1906 earthquake scenes and the 1915 Panama-Pacific Expo. Ron has great stories to tell to go with the pictures! St. Philip's Catholic Church, 24th & Diamond St. \$5

**TUE • ST. CECILIA'S OPEN HOUSE**  
Tue Nov 30 | 8:30 - 10 am | Presentation and Tour. No reservation required. 660 Vicente St.

**WED • GLIDE HOLIDAY JAM**  
Wed Nov 29 | 5:30 pm | Love Overcomes celebrates irresistible hope and unconditional love and helps raise funds for Glide's Daily Free Meals program and other services. Special performance by Grammy award-winning singer, songwriter and producer Valerie Simpson; the Glide Ensemble and The

Change Band at The Masonic, 1111 California. Food and drink will be provided by the Bay Area's finest restaurants and beverage companies. \$65-250.

**SAT • CABLE CAR CAROLING**  
Sat Dec 2 | 12:30 pm | Institute on Aging's 33rd Annual Cable Car Caroling Fundraiser kicks off at at Roosevelt High School (Arguello at Geary) Mix and mingle then board cable cars to criss-cross the City, stopping to serenade more than 1,000 seniors. Reconvene at Roosevelt High @ 4pm for dinner. Tix: \$75 - adults, 50 - seniors and students, or 15 - kids. Proceeds benefit the Friendship Line, the only 24-hour, toll-free hotline for seniors and disabled.

**TUE • L - TARAVAL RAPID**  
Tue Dec 5 | 1 pm | SFMTA L-Taraval Rapid Project Hearing in City Hall Room 400. If you are unable to attend these hearings, please send your comments about proposed changes to LtaravalRapid@sfmta.com and MTABoard@sfmta.com.

**TUE • LA PLAZA ART HEARING**  
Tue Dec 5 | 1 pm | New public art is proposed for the intersection of Judah Street and La Playa Street. Approval by the SFMTA Board and is scheduled in City Hall, Room. 400

**WED • GWPNA**  
Wed Dec 6 | 6:30 pm | Greater West Portal Neighborhood Assn., West Portal Playground Clubhouse, 131 Lenox Way. Meets first Wednesday of the month.

**THU • MCMANSION HEARING**  
Tue Dec 7 | 1 pm | December 7 Planning Commission meeting, room 400, City Hall to voice your opposition to the Planning Department's attempt to replace its current demolition guidelines with a density plan that will ruin your neighborhood's character, and may exile you into the shadows from your neighbor's "McMansion" home.

**SAT • OMI NEIGHBORS**  
Sat Dec 16 | 1 - 3 pm | No meetings in Nov or Dec. Instead join us at our annual Holiday Toy Giveaway at Minnie & Lovie Rec Center @ Capitol and Montana.

**Local event?**  
editor@westsideobserver.com  
Priority: Westside Events



Money Matters By Brandon Miller

## How to Find Transparency in Your Financial Relationships



Choosing a financial advisor is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make. After all, this individual or team will have access to your life's savings — and you have to trust them to guide you toward the future you desire.

But, amidst all the industry hype and jargon, understanding how to identify a true financial ally can be incredibly challenging.

### Search for an RIA

One way to find a financial professional you can rely on is to look for a Registered Investment Adviser (RIA). This type of financial firm has fiduciary duty, which

find clear guidance that looks out for your best interests? Start by asking the right questions.

The next time you meet with a financial professional, I recommend asking them these questions to help find the insight and transparency you deserve:

Are you a fiduciary?  
How do you charge for your services?

“The next time you meet with a financial professional, I recommend asking them these questions to help find the insight and transparency you deserve...”

means they must always act in their clients' best interests.

Of course, many talented and trustworthy advisors work for big-name firms. But the reality is that corporate priorities can also sway how they serve clients. Often, advisors at big firms have to meet sales quotas or push products that contribute to their employer's bottom line. They might charge commissions for their work — even if their choices make you lose money.

RIAs have a fiduciary role when working with clients which includes disclosing any conflicts of interest, and must present solutions that are in their clients' best interests. Not putting your needs first is literally against the law.

### Expect Clear Communications

As an RIA, we have to complete a form called the ADV, which outlines every aspect of the services we provide for clients, the fees we charge, and how we work. And, the Securities and Exchange Commission requires us to write the content in plain English — which means no burying our true actions in jargon or legalese.

So, what can you do to help ensure you

Where can I find information about conflicts of interest you may have?

How will you put my needs first?

Ultimately, an RIA provides transparency you might not find at other firms. And in today's complex, constantly changing financial world, you deserve to understand exactly what your advisor is doing on your behalf.

*Brandon Miller, CFP® is a financial consultant at Brio Financial Group in San Francisco, specializing in helping LGBT individuals and families plan and achieve their financial goals.*

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### Fossil Fuel Investments (Cont. from p. 6)

question why SFERS has known for at least the past seven years (or longer) it has been sustaining massive losses on its fossil fuel investment, but SFERS did nothing to mitigate those losses.

Why should taxpayers, and City employees, be footing the bill for SFERS to continue losing massive funds simply to buy a seat at the table, hoping to influence corporate behavior with “shareholder engagement”?

How can the City Attorney be suing Big Fossil Fuel, while the Retirement Board stubbornly continues investing in investor-owned fossil fuel companies like those

Herrera is suing? This makes no sense.

The time to act by divesting is now!

*An expanded version of this article posted on [www.stopLHHdownsize.com](http://www.stopLHHdownsize.com) contains addition details concerning SFERS' fossil fuel investment losses, and other details.*

*Monette-Shaw is a columnist for San Francisco's Westside Observer newspaper, and a member of the California First Amendment Coalition (FAC) and the ACLU. He operates [stopLHHdownsize.com](http://stopLHHdownsize.com). Contact him at [monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com](mailto:monette-shaw@westsideobserver.com).*



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## DIFFERENT BY DESIGN

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### Invasive Species (Cont. from p. 7)

organism have been around for decades and have not been introduced by bilge water. These organisms were introduced here intentionally or unintentional as a host of organisms brought here for food.<sup>3</sup>

#### NATIVE PLANT INTRUSION:

The most serious invasion of non-native species occurred in the fields of California in The Great Drought of 1860-1865 which decimated the cattle industry. The first exotic grass invasion began when the first cattle were brought to California, however, during the Great Drought, the spread of exotic grasses was fastest and far reaching. State wide, the the loss of cattle was 46% but in Los Angeles County the loss of cattle was



Nassella pulchra or purple needlegrass

over 70%. Farmers, unable to provide enough forage for their animals, would let them roam free, spreading European grasses far and wide. During this time, it is believed that 200,000 to 1,000,000 cattle may have starved.<sup>4</sup> The dominance of nonnative species and the accompanying decline in native grassland species has been attributed to uncontrolled livestock grazing. However, several other factors, including tillage for crop agriculture, suppression or elimination of land management by Native Americans, climate change, and competition from nonnative species all played an important role in the conversion of exotic grasses from native grasses.<sup>4</sup> Some researchers believe that nonnative, annual grasses, are so superior in seed production, that they could have displaced native grasses solely through competition and greater seed production. Regardless why the decline of native dominated grassland occurred in California, in most regions of the state, native grass species represent less than 1% of the standing grassland.”<sup>4</sup>

Most notably, the bunchgrass most

prevalent before the invasion of exotic species was, Nassella pulchra or purple needlegrass. Research showed, that depending on the time of year this grass was grazed by cattle, caused the grass to be healthy or not. Should grazing occur in the fall and winter, the grass would recover quickly but if grazing occurred in early spring, the grass seed would be harmed hurting seed distribution. The grazing of native grasses by native Tully Elk or Black-tailed Deer has never been as hard on the environment as grazing by cattle.

It is important to note, the phrase “Golden California” is really from the European grasses that populate the state. If our our native bunch grasses were the dominant species, the fields of California would be more light green in appearance. With the advent of exotic grasses in California, it is said that the ecosystem increased seed production by 83% more than when the native plant species dominated the environment.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, some explain the rodent population could have burgeoned during this period. However, in this belief, everyone is not in agreement.

As you can see, this invasion of non-native grasses was more extensive and far reaching than any other more recent takeover. Since it occurred so long ago, it is part of our history and seldom discussed.

*Glenn Rogers, RLA is a landscape architect that lives in San Francisco*

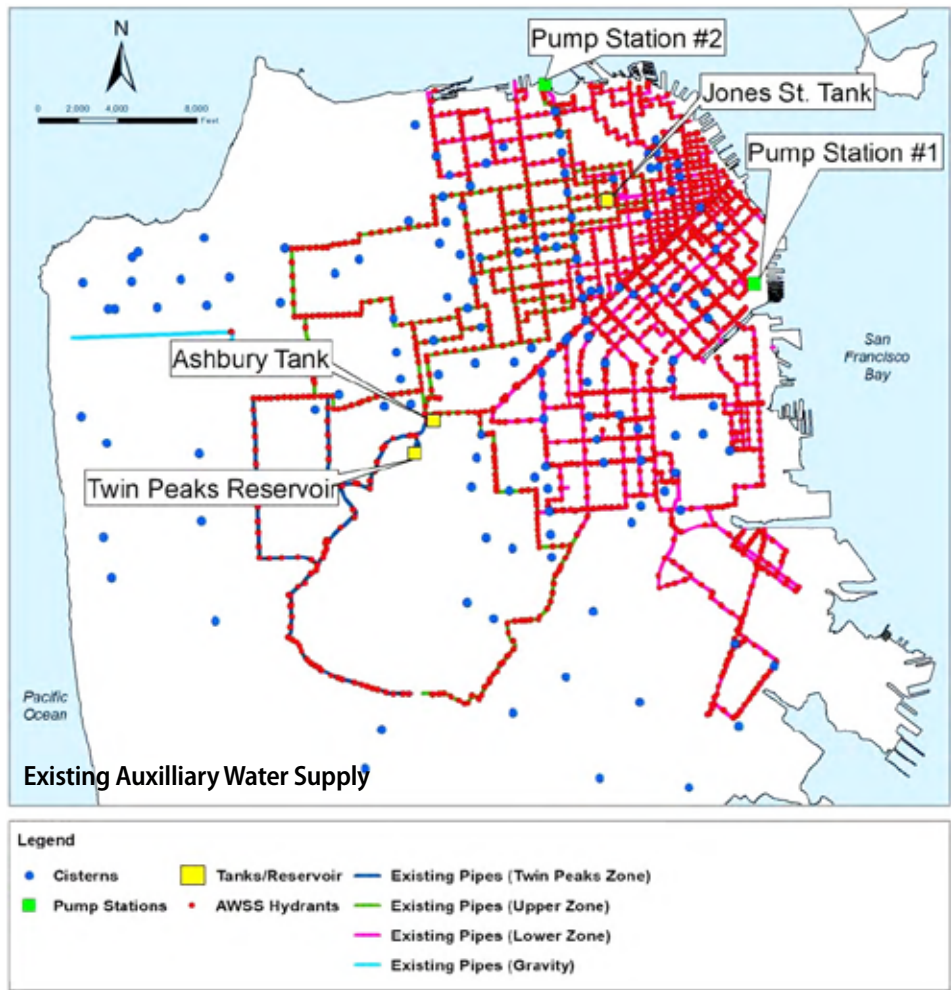
1 [mercurynews.com/2017/09/28/tsunami-sent-japanese-sea-creatures-to-u-s-beaches-on-plastics/](http://mercurynews.com/2017/09/28/tsunami-sent-japanese-sea-creatures-to-u-s-beaches-on-plastics/)

2 [nbcnewyork.com/news/green/Court\\_Ruling\\_Ends\\_Unpermitted\\_Ballast\\_Water\\_Discharge\\_All\\_National\\_.html](http://nbcnewyork.com/news/green/Court_Ruling_Ends_Unpermitted_Ballast_Water_Discharge_All_National_.html)

3 [sfgate.com/green/article/The-Great-Invaders-A-new-ecosystem-is-evolving-2523069.php](http://sfgate.com/green/article/The-Great-Invaders-A-new-ecosystem-is-evolving-2523069.php)

4 [ucanr.edu/sites/UCCE\\_LR/files/180943.pdf](http://ucanr.edu/sites/UCCE_LR/files/180943.pdf)





Neighborhood Fire Plan (Cont. from p. 4)

is not constructed to AWSS standards and lacks adequate pressure for firefighting. At the hydrant at 22nd Avenue and Fulton Street, the outflow pressure is in the 30 p.s.i. range, far short of the amount needed to fight fires. The pressure increases along the line as gravity pushes the water downhill, but the line is not pressurized and has limited use for putting out fires.

Expanding the firefighting system

In 1986, voters passed a \$48 million bond measure to upgrade two saltwater pumps and for several short AWSS extensions, down Portola Drive with a 20-inch diameter transmission water main to Ocean Avenue, thus covering the western border of St. Francis Wood and Balboa Terrace. Then it goes along Ocean Avenue past SF City College and up to Mission Street in a large loop bordering the Excelsior District.

The AWSS was also extended into the Inner-Sunset southward along Seventh Avenue and then turns west on Taraval Street. It then turns west on 19th Avenue to Irving Street, where it travels eastward to complete the loop.

A smaller “loop” of the AWSS was put around a part of the Bay View, in the area of Oakdale, Third and Revere streets. But the “dead end” loop has trouble providing water to the pressure standards of the rest of the AWSS system.

The need to expand the AWSS to fully encompass the city and expand into unserved neighborhoods has been recognized for decades by city planners and firefighting experts. The SF Civil Grand Jury recognized the importance of the AWSS in 2002.

A big test for the AWSS came during the 6.9-magnitude Loma Prieta Earthquake. For the most part the system worked, but it did fail the Marina District, mostly in liquefaction zones, so a combination of water from cisterns and fireboats pumping saltwater was used to stop fires there before they grew too big.

San Francisco has “infirm areas,” where the ground has either been filled in or consists mostly of loose sand. In the downtown area, the shoreline used to be at Montgomery Street but subsequently it was filled in and the land was extended out to the Embarcadero. This makes that, and other infirm areas like the Marina District, vulnerable to liquefaction during an earthquake, where the ground temporarily becomes more like a muddy liquid than a solid.

“We had five breaks South of Market,” Blackburn explained. “The high-pressure mains (AWSS), we expect them to break in those infirm areas ... In 1989 we had not motorized all of our gate valves yet, so we

had to do it manually.”

The water supply for the South of Market and Marina District comes from the 750,000-gallon Jones Street Tank, which in turn is supplied from an AWSS pipeline coming from the Twin Peaks Reservoir.

“Those five breaks South of Market,

we were unable to close off the valves right away because of all the chaos from the earthquake,” Blackburn said.

At the same time, all of the phone landlines went down so there were communication problems getting the pump stations to kick in. Because of delays finding breaks, closing off the valves and getting pumps into operation for the seawater, the total effect was to drain the Jones Street Tank before it could be replenished.

“When the Jones Street Tank got drained, there was no water down in the Marina,” he said.

At this time the value of having the valves motorized became obvious. Today, major valves are powered by batteries located nearby and are rigged to automatically close in the event of a magnitude 6.7 earthquake or stronger. Then, once breaks in the pipeline are located, the damaged sections can be isolated and other valves can be opened to restore the flow of water to other parts of the City without losing any more.

Mayor takes AWSS away from SF Fire Department, voters pass bond measure

In 2010, two significant things occurred. First was then-SF Mayor Gavin Newsom transferring the responsibility for the AWSS from the SFFD to the SF Public Utilities Commission, in order to save about \$3.5 million in the SFFD’s budget at a time when the economy was sputtering, and, secondly, city voters passed a \$412 million bond measure to pay for earthquake preparedness measures.

Newsom used an executive order to facilitate an “interdepartmental transfer,” to move the AWSS from the fire department over to the SFPUC, despite the objections of the city’s fire chief and fire commission.

After the transfer, it took five years for the SFFD and SFPUC to agree on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which spells out which department is responsible for various duties, including opening and closing gate valves and inspecting fire

hydrants.

According to retired SF Fire Department Assistant Deputy Chief Tom Doudiet, who worked on the MOU, the SFPUC took its time with the MOU because it was reluctant to put anything into writing.

The \$412.3 million bond measure for earthquake preparedness was passed by San Francisco voters in 2010 to improve deteriorating pipes, hydrants, reservoirs, water cisterns and pumps built after the 1906 earthquake; also to improve neighborhood fire stations; and replace the seismically-unsafe emergency command center with an earthquake-safe building.

Although the bond language does not specifically say the money would be used to expand the AWSS, in the Voter’s Guide from that year a statement signed by the SF Democratic Party and paid for by the SF Fire Fighters PCA and the SF Earthquake and Disaster Response Plan, urged voters to vote “yes” because the bond measure “expands and strengthens our network of cisterns and pipes to ensure that residents throughout the city have an emergency water supply for fire protection ... and will ensure that a high-pressure water supply is available to fight fires and save lives in large buildings.”

Between 2010 and 2012, the SFPUC posted maps on its website clearly showing proposed extensions of the AWSS into the Outer Richmond District, via California Street, and then crossing Golden Gate Park into the Outer Sunset District, where there are connections to the Sunset Reservoir and Lake Merced.

The maps also show proposed extensions running from Ocean Avenue to Alemany Boulevard and then along Geneva and Silver avenues out to the University Mound Reservoir, which would be used to service parts of supervisorial districts 9, 10 and 11, with the exception of Visitacion Valley.

In 2014 another \$400 million bond was passed to improve or replace deteriorating cisterns, pipes tunnels and related facilities to ensure firefighters have a reliable high-pressure water supply for fires; to improve and/or replace neighborhood fire and police stations; and replace seismically-unsafe police and medical examiner facilities with earthquake-safe buildings.

By this time, however, SFPUC maps showing the previously proposed AWSS extensions had been removed, but proposals to build an additional 30 water cisterns

major drawbacks to the use of cisterns. Once a cistern is empty it is no longer useful as it must be filled manually from outside sources. Also, it requires the use of a fire engine to pump the water out for short distances, up to half a mile. But, if the fire is more than a half mile or so from the cistern, two fire engines are required to tap a single cistern.

There are 42 fire engines in San Francisco’s fire-fighting fleet, including three in the Richmond and three in the Sunset. Cisterns range from 10,000 gallons to 35,000 gallons. On average, a fire engine at the scene of a fire will pump between 1,000 and 1,500 gallons of water a minute.

According to Doudiet, if a firestorm envelops a neighborhood the only way to stop it is to put up a wall of water, a water curtain, to absorb the heat and knock down the flames. Last-ditch stands like that usually occur on wide streets or boulevards.

SFPUC unveils doomed flex hose system; no plans for southern neighborhoods

About the time the MOU was being signed, the SFPUC, on the advice of its paid consultant, unveiled a plan to supplant the AWSS in unprotected areas of the city. The plan was called the Flexible Water Supply System (FWSS) and entailed about 15 miles of 12-inch flexible hose being stored at the Sunset and University Mound reservoirs for emergency water distribution. The University Mound Reservoir contains 140 million gallons of water, but only the North Reservoir was seismically upgraded, in 2010.

David Briggs, the local and regional water system manager for the SFPUC at the time, testified during a Board of Supervisor’s Government Audit and Oversight Committee hearing on April 7, 2016, about the SFPUC’s confidence in the untested system.

“Well, I think it is a solution that’s sustainable, so it may be permanent,” Briggs said.

San Francisco Supervisor Aaron Peskin called the hearing because the SFPUC was intending to scrap parts for the AWSS to save money, so the agency would not have to pay rent for a lot to store the materials. The SFPUC said it had enough spare parts for repairs of the AWSS.

The flexible hose plan would have stored up to 15 miles of 12-inch flexible hose at the Sunset and University Mound reservoirs. After a large earthquake, volunteers from the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) were going to be responsible for distributing the flex hose along prescribed routes.

But critics said untrained volunteers would face insurmountable obstructions after a disaster, including earthquake debris in the roadways and the possibility of having to work in pitch-black darkness. As

Cont. p. 15

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Neighborhood Fire Plan (Cont. from p. 14)

well, the flex pipe would have had to been hooked up to numerous pipes running underground on transit-critical roadways.

The unwieldy FWSS was abandoned sometime within the last year, and a new plan recently emerged for the west side of the city, the “Potable Co-benefits” plan.

There are no plans at this time for providing emergency firefighting pipelines like the AWSS to feed water into neighborhoods located in the southernmost part of the city.

Critics question latest PUC post-earthquake proposal

The PUC’s current Potable Co-benefits plan has caused some skepticism amongst firefighting experts and politicians.

The plan would run a reinforced pipe from the Sunset Reservoir westward on Ortega Street to 41st Avenue, where it would turn north through Golden Gate Park to Cabrillo Street, and then turn east to 29th Avenue.

According to retired Assistant Deputy Chief Doudiet, the plan is suspect because it does not use strengthened AWSS pipe joints, and the loss of pressure along the line if lots of water is required in the Sunset, and may result in too little pressure to fight fires in the Richmond. Firefighters generally need 60 p.s.i. of water pressure for effective firefighting. He said each AWSS hydrant on a properly designed loop in the outer Richmond and Sunset districts can replace four or five fire engines.

Doudiet also said it is bad city policy to use the city’s fresh water for firefighting when it could be in short supply after a disaster.

An average three-inch firefighting hose loses about five pounds of pressure, due to resistance, for every 50 feet of hose deployed. So, for a fire 500 feet from the water main, there would be a drop of 50 pounds per square inch of pressure. As well, hose resistance knocks off another 5 psi per 12 feet of elevation.

With the current proposal, getting adequate water pressure from Cabrillo Street to elevated areas, like the Veterans Affairs (VA) center on Clement Street and 42nd Avenue, might be difficult. Fire engines could be used to boost pressure if they are available.

“What they would like to do is do a duel potable water system, which has not been tested,” Richmond District Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer said. “I feel like the AWSS has been tested, through the 1989 earthquake. So, I’m a little cautious because the idea that (the SFPUC) presented to us was running this potable line from the reservoir in the Sunset all the way over into the Richmond ... is a system that has not been tested here.

“You can imagine, with all of our homes in the Richmond being built in the early 1900s, and all-wood frames, and we’re so close to each other here, that personally I want the best water system possible for the Richmond District, so that I’m assured that if there is an earthquake that we have it within our capability of actually just hooking a hose up and getting a high-pressure water system at our fingertips to put out the fires.”

Fewer acknowledged that the AWSS is more expensive than the alternative being proposed, but said there is little choice in the matter.

“It’s expensive, but everything’s expensive, right? That should not deter the City from actually ensuring that our residents out here in the Richmond are safe during a fire,” she said. “I know that it’s expensive but the cost of lives and homes and damage and destruction is way more expensive. So, I like to err on the side of caution.”

Sunset District Supervisor Katy Tang, on the other hand, said she has researched the Potable Co-benefits pipeline and has confidence in it.

“The ultimate goal for our district and the City is to provide the infrastructure necessary to allow for any neighborhood to have the most resilient system in place for fighting fires in the event of a major

disaster,” Tang said. “The west side of town historically did not have enough protection infrastructure. However, over the last several years, the City has invested in major projects that will significantly improve the level of protection for our Sunset residents. The potable co-benefits pipelines have been shown by the SFPUC and its engineering partner to provide the same level of protection as the AWSS, but at a much lower cost.”

The total cost of the potable co-benefits pipeline running from the Sunset Reservoir to the Richmond is estimated at \$52 million, of which only \$8 million is funded at this time, according to David Myerson of the SFPUC.

Suzanne Gautier, a spokesperson for the SFPUC, said all of the PUC’s projects are reviewed by a management-oversight committee, which is comprised of the PUC’s general manager, Harlan K. Kelly Jr., assistant general manager Steven Ritchie, SFFD Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White and the SF Department of Public Work’s Director Mohammed Nuru.

Gautier says they will all look over various options, including the Potable Co-benefits plan, before anything is committed.

“It is my understanding that there is a technical memorandum currently being written and to be reviewed and once it’s completed, evaluating all of these options and including the potable co-benefits pipeline,” Gautier said. “So, until that memorandum is completed by an outside technical expert and additional information is provided and is part of the analysis, there would have to be a thorough analysis of all of those options, and that is currently underway.”

The Sunset Reservoir was built in 1938 and holds about 177 million gallons of water, about half in each of the reservoirs’ two concrete basins. San Francisco residents use about 65 million gallons of water a day.

The reservoir’s North Basin was structurally reinforced, at a cost of \$62 million, in 2010. Concrete pilings were driven into the hillside to stabilize the soil and 33-foot-tall pillars holding up the roof were seismically reinforced.

According to the geotechnical investigation at the site, the soils around the reservoir “could be susceptible to significant strength loss during a major earthquake.”

It is unclear why the South Basin was not reinforced or if it is in danger of failing due to a large earthquake. It is also unclear if there is a gate valve between the two basins to protect the water in the North Basin in the case of a failure at the South Basin.

Some city supervisors whose districts are unprotected by the AWSS, including District 7 Supervisor Norman Yee, District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai, District 9 Supervisor Hillary Ronen and District 10 Supervisor Malia Cohen, did not respond to requests for comment as of presstime.

As for what the current SFFD administration thinks about the co-benefits plan, Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White was not available for comment, however, on her behalf Lt. Jonathan Baxter responded, saying: “The SFFD continues to collaborate with the SFPUC to enhance, strengthen and add further redundancy to our fire suppression systems.”

At SF Fire Commission meetings during the past year, there has been scant mention of the AWSS from the fire department’s chief and administrative divisions.

Use of fresh water for firefighting criticized, PUC rejects AWSS extension’s price tag

The SF Water Department, a part of the SFPUC, is currently strengthening the 167 miles of pipes and infrastructure that brings water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in the Sierra Nevada to San Francisco taps. The overall plan is called the Water Supply Improvement Program (WSIP). The goal of WSIP is to “restore facilities to meet average-day demand of up to 300-million gallons a day within 30 days after a major earthquake.”

Do you have a pinched nerve? We can help.

Dear friend,

It’s hard to believe, I know, but it’s true. Last year more Americans were killed by prescription drugs than by guns, AIDS, suicides and terrorists combined...But we’ll get to that in a minute.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know when I meet people in town they usually say, “Oh yeah, I know you, you are Doctor Meakim. You have been on the corner of Beach and Jones for years”...(and we just moved to our new office on Clement Street). Well, that’s me. I’m also the woman hugging her niece at the Jersey Shore in the picture.

Seventeen years ago something happened that changed my life forever. I was a young woman living in Philadelphia when it happened. I was driving with a friend when she missed a stop sign and rammed into the side of another car. We were all shaken up. The police were called and we all went to the hospital. No one was bleeding, so the doctors took some x-rays of our neck, gave us pain meds and sent us on our way. The next day I woke up with pain everywhere and it just kept getting worse. For years I tried everything that I could find. For an escape from the pain, I went to medical doctors, physical therapists, acupuncturists, I tried special pillows, and anything I thought might help. I spent a lot of time and money. Along the way I had two more car accidents and the pain kept getting worse and worse. I had developed fibromyalgia, neck pain, mid-back pain and low-back pain with tingling and numbness down my right arm and leg. I was scared that something was really wrong with me. This could not be normal. I was only 33 years old and felt like I was 100. That is when someone told me about a chiropractor that they thought could help. As a matter of fact, after the first person told me about him, two more people did that same week. So I made an appointment with the chiropractor. Thank goodness that they took the time to help me! I went to his office where he asked me about my problems, did an exam, and took some x-rays of my head and back. After that he pointed out where my nerves were pinched and adjusted them. The adjustment was so light I barely felt it. I began crying as I felt the pain leave my body for the first time in years. It may sound strange, but I was so happy and grateful for the relief that I still thank him every day! After that, I knew what I had to do. I had to become a chiropractor, and that’s how it happened!

I have adjusted many children within the first 15 minutes after birth. They obviously didn’t complain of neck pain or back pain; I adjust them to keep them healthy... as with all the hundreds of children I care for in my office.

You see, it’s not normal for kids to get ear infections, asthma, allergies or a number of other illnesses we see clear up in our office everyday.

When the nervous system is working correctly your internal resistance and healing powers are enhanced.

A healthy family does NOT rely on medication to make it well. My family does not turn to medication to seek health and we don’t have a “medicine chest” in our home. Due to years of advertising saturation from the pharmaceutical companies most Americans do seek health from outside in and most families have a “medicine chest” filled with an average of 16 different medications.

In an average year, the World Health Organization (WHO) reports over 1.5

million hospitalizations due to medication. Last year the WHO reported 350,000 deaths due to medication people took...

and 160,000 were when the drugs were prescribed correctly. More people died last year from medication than at Pearl Harbor and Vietnam. Amazing huh?

If drugs make people well, then those who take the most should be the healthiest, but this simply isn’t the case.

Many people are beginning to understand that health comes from within.

This is why chiropractic helps so many people. You see, your body can heal itself. Your body doesn’t need any help; it just can’t have any interference. With chiropractic, we don’t add anything to the body or take anything from it. We find interference in the nervous system and remove it, thus enhancing the healing capacities of the body.

We get tremendous results ... it really is as simple as that.

For the past eight years, people from San Francisco and the surrounding area have come to see me with their pinched nerve problems.

- Headaches
- Migraines
- Chronic Pain
- Neck pain
- Shoulder/arm pain
- Whiplash from car accidents
- Backaches
- Numbness in limbs
- Athletic injuries, just to name a few.

Here is what some of your neighbors have said:

*“I had back pain for 15 plus years and two back operations. Now I play tennis, sit at my computer and enjoy an active pain free life! Thank you Dr. Meakim!”* — A. McGrath

*“All possible medicines and doctors, you made a miracle taking away my pain!! I am a happy wife and mother again!”* — L. Igudesman

*“I have had chronic neck, shoulder and arm pain for the last 4 years. After seeing Dr. Meakim I can now twist off caps, button/zip my own pants and there is no longer a need for me to ice my arm in the morning and night! I feel more energetic, and can move my arm and neck pain free!”* — C. Brubaker

My qualifications:

I am a graduate of Palmer College of Chiropractic, I have published articles in leading chiropractic journals and taught chiropractic to chiropractors! I’ve been helping your neighbors in San Francisco since 2004. I’ve been entrusted to take care of tiny babies to athletes that you may know.

My assistants are Miranda and Nancy and they are friendly and helpful and ready to assist you to set up an evaluation. Our clinic is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have wonderful service at an exceptional fee. Our clinic is called Healthy Life Chiropractic and it is at 101 Clement Street (at the corner of Clement St. and 2nd Avenue). Our phone number is 415-751-7071. Call today for an appointment. We can help you.

*Thank you.* —Dr. Christina Meakim D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first family member, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$17.

P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor’s office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That’s why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.

P.P.P.S. Of course, all people respond differently to care.





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BRAIN FUD

Drop a Letter...

Each pair of definitions is for two words, where the second word is the first word with a letter deleted (example: brand & band). The length of the first word in each pair is provided, along with the position of the deleted letter to obtain the second word.

1) to push or drive with force (6 letters) & (delete 2nd letter) to hope or expect confidently  
2) sir (6 letters) & (delete 4th letter) cheapskate, tightwad  
3) a certain musical instrument (5 letters) & (delete 4th letter) an enclosed passageway for directing a current  
4) a person employed to transport people in a car (9 letters) & (delete 8th letter) a small portable heater or stove

Answer

- 1) thrust & trust  
2) mister & miser  
3) flute & flue  
4) chauffeur & chauffier



Company House and Restaurant Near Eltkon Shops | October 1928 Published by permission of the San Francisco Metropolitan Transportation Agency Photo Library

Letters (Cont. from p. 5)

When this happens they will reevaluate the situation and possibly install a new barrier to protect the Plant. So after spending hundreds of millions of dollars to remove the Great Highway and the existing rocks, we will end up with the exact same beach we have now minus the road and the parking lots. If the new barrier doesn't work because it is too close to the Plant then we will be forced to build a new treatment plant somewhere else. That's ok because Plan supporters refer to the Oceanside Plant as "improperly located infrastructure".

It is not too late to stop this foolish plan because the Board of Supervisors still must approve it. Westside residents should stand up to SPUR and the Planning Department and demand that our natural land and our infrastructure should be defended just as vigorously as all the filled in baylands on the east side of town.

Dennis Holl

7		9				5		
	8				7		9	
				4	8		6	7
1		6	8					5
			7		9			
9					1	8		6
3	7		4	8				
	5		2				8	
		8				6		3

Sudoku-fun!

**Rules:**  
Each puzzle is a 9 by 9 grid of squares divided into nine 3 by 3 square blocks, with some of the numbers filled in for you.

**The Object:**  
Fill in the blank squares so that each of the numbers 1 to 9 appears exactly once in each row, column and block.

**Answer:** appears right.

8	2	9	5	4	1	8	6	4
4	8	4	8	6	2	1	5	9
6	5	1	9	8	4	2	4	8
9	8	8	1	2	5	4	4	6
2	1	4	6	9	4	5	8	8
5	4	6	4	8	8	9	2	1
4	9	2	8	4	6	8	1	5
1	6	8	4	5	9	4	8	2





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## The Next Big Thing: Fix Special Education

When the president of the California State Board of Education says special education in California is in deep trouble, it's time to pay attention.

It's not that this is new news. The problem has been brewing for years. But there are now some signals that the time may have come for some big changes to special education.

### So What's the Problem?

When kids struggle in school, they need help. Spotting challenges early and intervening with just the right help can make all the difference — but the road can be bumpy. Anyone who has tried to help knows the system can be improved.

Many students with disabilities fall behind in school. They graduate at a much lower rate (60 percent) than students without a disability (78 percent). Falling behind is bad for kids, and bad for California communities. About 70 percent of juveniles arrested are identified as needing special education services.

The achievement levels of California students with disabilities are particularly low — far behind students in other states. A Statewide Special Education Task Force Report does not mince words when it lays out what's wrong:

"Inadequate services prior to kindergarten;

Financing that often does not meet the needs of students and that is unequally provided throughout the state;

Short-sighted teacher preparation and licensing practices;

Chronically lowered expectations for many students with disabilities;

A failure within schools and classrooms to consistently use the very

evidence-based practices that are being used successfully in other parts of the country."

Add to this a severe shortage of staff to help kids with special needs and you can see why special education is in deep Trouble-with-a-capital-T. According to a 2017 survey by the Learning Policy Institute, 88% of California school districts are short of special education teachers.

### Why Now?

California recently overhauled its education finance system, but special education was intentionally left out of it. Why? Well...it was way too complicated to fix everything in one swoop.

The Task Force recommends a more coherent system. In California, for many years, special education was treated as a separate system — with its own rules and training and approaches — where many children with special needs were excluded from students in general education. The Task Force envisions a system where:

*"...all children and students with disabilities are considered general education students first; and all educators, regardless of which students they are assigned to serve, have a collective responsibility to see that all children receive the education and the supports they need..."*

Now...this is a huge shift. And a lot of this thinking has to do with early intervention. Listen to Benjamin Franklin, folks:

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure"

The research collected by the Task



Force shows that "well-timed and well-executed early intervention reduces the number of students with learning disabilities, by far the largest cohort in the special education ranks, and improves school outcomes for everyone. Those students who benefit from separate and specialized settings, in particular students who are deaf, especially benefit from early intervening services."

### Learn More

#### Special Needs: Why Not Teach All Kids Alike?

Ed100.org has a lesson on special needs to help you understand how this system works. Go to Lesson 2.7 to learn more.

#### California Dyslexia Guidelines

In 2017, the California Department of Education released a detailed explanation of dyslexia and how California's education system supports students. (It's a long document. Jump to page 81 for practical advice about things you can try at home.)

#### Statewide Special Education Task Force Report

The Task Force studied the causes of the state's poor outcomes for students with disabilities. Its report includes specific recommendations.

#### Special Education Finance in California

This 2016 report from the Public Policy Institute of California recommends changes to how special education is funded. It looks at equity, adequacy, accountability and transparency.

**Note:** For more articles on how the education system really works, go to [www.Ed100.org](http://www.Ed100.org). Sign up to receive weekly updates.

Carol Kocivar is former President of the California Parent Teachers Association and she lives on the Westside. Feedback: [kocivar@westsideobserver.com](mailto:kocivar@westsideobserver.com)

### Police Report (Cont. from p. 10)

the car hadn't been registered since 2016. The driver also appeared to have some kind of medical conditions. He was cited and released to medics.

#### Assault – Arrested

1:57 pm | 9th Ave & Irving St

A woman said a suspect hit an elderly lady and was currently being detained by bystanders. Officers observed him to be in an altered mental state, so he was handcuffed. Another victim said he was on the corner when the suspect punched the back of his head. The elderly victim had a laceration at the back of her head, was confused and had lost consciousness. The witness confirmed the attacks and also saw him running around attempting to open car doors and kicking garbage cans. After investigation, he was arrested.

#### Tuesday - October 24

#### Robbery

8:23 pm | Judah St & 40th Ave

The victim on the N Judah LRV had just put her cell phone into her purse when the suspect suddenly reached over and grabbed the phone. The victim tried unsuccessfully to get it back. The suspect immediately exited the LRV and fled.

#### Friday - October 27

#### Traffic Arrest – Drunk – Arrested

11:44 pm | 2100 31st Ave

Officers advised a noisy party as well as those standing in the middle of the road to leave the area due to a noise complaint. A male, appearing to be intoxicated, refused to move out of the road. He had on ID in his possession. He was arrested.

#### Saturday - October 28

#### Assault – Threatening of a Witness – Arrested

11:28 am | 1200 Quintara St

The victim said the suspect, his daughter, grabbed his throat attempting to strangle him. He said she asked him for a ride to Stonestown, but he told her to clean her room instead. The angry suspect assaulted him. When officers contacted her, she admitted to hitting her father due to having a bad day. She was arrested.

**Editor's Note:** this is an incomplete and abridged report due to the constraints of available space. For more space, please support and thank our advertisers. For the complete reports, visit [taraval.org](http://taraval.org)

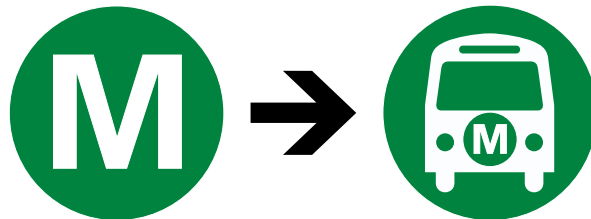
## M MUNI SAFETY AND TRACK IMPROVEMENTS



## Construction is Coming to 19th Avenue

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is improving pedestrian and transit safety on the M Ocean View. We're installing new accessible ramps, replacing aging tracks, building a new pedestrian crossing area and more. Construction will occur on 19th Avenue between Winston Drive and Eucalyptus Drive and at the Junipero Serra Boulevard intersection. Work will begin in late October and last 3-4 weeks, weather permitting.

**Sign up for updates and learn more about the project at [sfmta.com/mon19thavenue](http://sfmta.com/mon19thavenue). Questions? Contact Public Information Officer Kelley McCoy ([kelley.mccoy@sfmta.com](mailto:kelley.mccoy@sfmta.com) or 415.646.2551)**



**Substitution M bus service will replace train service on weekends between West Portal and Balboa Park stations. Buses will run from late Friday nights through end of service late Sunday nights. Weekend service will be affected in late October and November.**



Westside Vulnerable (Cont. from p. 1)

For many years while a member of the fire department, and for several years since my retirement in 2011, I have attempted, with little success, to alert city officials, including members of the SF Board of Supervisors and staff in the mayor's office. My message: There will be almost no emergency water supplies for the SFFD to use in these neighborhoods for fighting fires after the "big one" hits.

Why is this so? There are two kinds of fire hydrants in San Francisco, the 9,000 small white low-pressure hydrants supplied by the same domestic water mains that supply water to every building in the City and the 1,600 larger hydrants with red, blue or black tops, supplied by the high-pressure mains of the Auxiliary Water Supply System (AWSS). This system was installed in the years following the 1906 earthquake and fire, mainly in the areas of the City that had been built up by 1913. Thus, it doesn't exist west of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Richmond, west of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the Sunset or in the city's southern neighborhoods.

The seismically robust mains of the high-pressure hydrant system were built to withstand the effects of ground movement during an earthquake, whereas the domestic water supply that supplies both the low-pressure hydrants, as well as all of the city's buildings, are not as seismically resistant.

These domestic mains, and many thousands of service connection water pipes leading from the mains into buildings, will break during a major seismic event. The result will be that the SFFD will have little or no water available from the low-pressure hydrants, just as happened in 1906.

In 15 neighborhoods of San Francisco, including the Bayview Heights, Crocker Amazon, Excelsior, Ingleside, Little Hollywood, Merced Manor, Mission Terrace, Oceanview, Outer Mission, Outer Richmond, Outer Sunset, Parkside, Portola, Sea Cliff, Stonestown and Sunnyside, there are no high-pressure hydrants, so how

will SFFD firefighters stop the spread of fire from building to building and, soon thereafter, from block to block? The simple answer is that they won't. Conflagrations (fire storms), as occurred in 1906, will result.

How do we know there will be any fires?

In addition to water service pipes going into every building in San Francisco, there are also natural gas pipes. Just as most of our domestic water mains are more than 100 years old, so are the gas pipes in many of these buildings. As we were shown in the Marina District in 1989, when building structures are disrupted, and sometimes collapse during an earthquake, ruptured gas lines are an explosive source of building fires. Assuming that even one building in 1,000 develops an internal gas leak during an earthquake (there are approximately 56 residential buildings on an average block in the Richmond and the Sunset), let's calculate the potential: there are about 225 square blocks in the Outer Richmond and about 525 blocks in the Outer Sunset – that is a total of 750 blocks times 56 buildings per block equals 42,000 buildings. If we assume one gas leak per 1,000 buildings, there could be 42 simultaneous fires, in wood frame buildings fed by natural gas leaks. Again, there will be no water in the existing low-pressure hydrants to fight these fires.

By the way, the 75,000 gallon cisterns that the City recently added to the Sunset (and a few in the Richmond) are good adjuncts to high-pressure hydrants, but they alone will not stop the fires following a large earthquake. Unless the use of water from a cistern to fight fires is very close to the fire, it would require two engines per cistern for firefighting, one at the cistern and one at the scene of the fire.

There are only 44 fire engines in San Francisco and only six engines assigned to cover both the outer Richmond and Sunset districts, possibly only enough to fight three fires using water from cisterns on the west side, and leaving perhaps as many as

39 fires burning unchecked.

Individual building fires that are not fought, especially in blocks of wood frame buildings with no space between them, could very soon lead to entire blocks on fire. The build-up of heat from many buildings burning simultaneously results in fire spreading from block to block by radiated heat, and the massive amounts of super-heated air rising creates a draft similar to a howling windstorm (eye-witness accounts of the fires after the 1906 earthquake vividly describe this process).

The entire southern and western parts of the city could be destroyed by fire in a single day following a major earthquake. The point here is that unless the fire department has a ready source of water in a stable, high-pressure, high-volume hydrant system to use to fight individual small fires immediately after a large earthquake, entire neighborhoods will be destroyed.

As difficult as it is to consider, people trapped in collapsed buildings that are in the path of a conflagration are not likely to be rescued before they, too, are consumed by the flames.

In 2010 and again in 2014, San Francisco voters approved the so-called Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response (ESER) Bonds. Literature published in support of the ballot propositions in the Voter's Guide by the SF Chamber of Commerce and SF Democratic Party implied the AWSS extensions of the high-pressure hydrant system into the outer Richmond and Sunset districts were going to be funded by these and subsequent bonds.

Following the passage of the 2014 ESER bond measure, however, a strange thing occurred. In spite of the published reports and recommendations of the engineering firm the City hired to study fire protection issues, the SF Water Department (an arm of the SF Public Utilities Commission) clearly signaled that it no longer intended to go forward with the extension of this hydrant system into our neighborhoods after all.

This change in plans became apparent when they moved to auction off, for scrap metal prices, millions of dollars worth of materials and parts that the City had stored for the purpose of repairing and extending the high-pressure hydrant system. The water department's actual intent then became clear: despite what voters had been led to believe, the water department now has absolutely no intention of actually extending the high-pressure hydrant system into the outer neighborhoods.

In April 2016, SF Supervisor Aaron Peskin, chair of the supervisors' Government Audit and Oversight Committee, held a hearing to determine whether the auctioning off of these parts by the water department made sense, in view of the city's publication, just before the 2014 bond issue, of maps showing the proposed extension of the high-pressure hydrant system into the outer Richmond and Sunset districts and other neighborhoods.

Representatives of the water and fire departments were asked to explain to the supervisors why, if they intended to extend the system into currently unserved neighborhoods, they would be selling off the necessary parts as scrap metal.

The answer given by both a water department manager and a uniformed member of the SF Fire Department's command staff was that they now believed that these hydrants were not needed.

Instead, they said, they had discovered that they could purchase 15 miles of large diameter hoses that could be dropped from the back of flatbed trucks, as needed, following a major earthquake. This, they stated, would enable the fire department to fight the expected fires and save those neighborhoods, without high-pressure hydrants, from being destroyed by conflagrations.

To say that this bizarre scheme defies common sense is an extreme understatement:

- They had no experience using this type

Cont. p. 19



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*Real Travel By Sergio Nibbi*

## Keeping America Great

If anyone has any doubts of how great our county really is, all one has to do is head to the area of the Panama Canal. We all learned in our history classes that the French started the work on the canal in 1880 after a very successful project building the Suez Canal. Dig a trench from one ocean to the other and start collecting the money. Unfortunately that's not how it happened. The French tried the same method of digging from ocean to ocean and failed miserably, both financially and sadly with over 25,000 deaths, mainly from yellow fever and malaria. It was not until 1903 that the United States bought the rights to the canal, along with the realization that the transit had to be accomplished by a series of water elevators. With that the work was started and successfully completed in a mere 11 years. One of the greatest engineering endeavors of all time, it still stands as a compliment to American determination, ingenuity, skill, and medical innovation.



The canal was opened on August 15, 1914 under the management of the United States and remained so until December 31, 1999, when it was turned over to the Panamanian government by a treaty signed by President Jimmy Carter. The most fascinating part is that every time a ship is raised or lowered through the locks, the water is used only once and then spilled out to sea. With six locks between the seas and with millions of gallons of water used each time in each



lock, you can imagine the amount of water that is used daily and yet the Panama Canal has never run out of water in all these years. The third canal that was opened just last year is much wider and longer and does have a reservoir that recycles over 60 percent of the water, but as we were told, were it not for the rain forest surrounding the area there would be no water, and with no water no canal.

Our transit was done during daylight hours that started obviously from the Pacific side as we passed by Panama City with its two million inhabitants, endless high-rises rivaling Miami or Manhattan, and what is now one of the largest banking centers in the world. Another interesting point is that they do not take Visa or MasterCard - yes it's strictly cash. Our captain mentioned that it cost \$185,000 for our crossing, but with the new 3rd channel the Post-Panamax vessels can carry thousands of containers, and they can pay well over one million dollars per crossing.

After the crossing we overnighted in Colon, on the Atlantic side of the canal, and the following day we had arranged for



Fruit Stand in Cartagena



Cartagena, Columbia, a beautiful modern city

a 6 hour bus and train ride on the Panama Canal Railway Company that took us from Colon to Panama, and back over what was the first Continental Railway, established before the canal was built to ferry the early 49ers going from Europe to California for the gold rush. Today it still carries a fair number of tourists, but its main business is still carrying over one thousand containers a day from ocean to ocean. Our guide spoke constantly, pointing out the highlights of the canal, and eventually stopping off at the new visitor's center to get a closer look at the newly built 3rd channel. Most importantly, he taught us the meaning of such phrases as a Shakespeare stop, "to pee or not to pee," and also gave us the opportunity to stop along the way back and do some "chopping."

The Panama Canal is now considered one of the seven wonders of the modern world and our thanks go to our politicians at the time, our congress, FDR, the Army Core of Engineers and the talent of the men and woman of this great country.

The next stop was just as eventful as we visited Cartagena, Columbia, and found another beautiful, modern city and home to endless American ex-pats. Certainly no drug lords standing on the corners selling their wares to unsuspecting tourists but rather a very modern city surrounded by old churches, forts and a beautiful Old-Town that was packed with tourists

and visitors alike. Once again we found a friendly, English speaking guide who took us around for over two hours starting out with the Convento de la Popa with spectacular views of the city below and of course the mandatory photo with the donkey, standing behind the cutout of the pirate and damsel while fighting off all the vendors selling all sorts of hats, shirts, jewelry and religious souvenirs. We stopped off in Old-Town for some great photo ops, touring the walled city and eventually found our way back to the "chip."

Our last stop was to be in George Town, Grand Cayman where we were scheduled to anchor but because of the rough seas from Hurricane Nate we had to skip that one and spend the day at sea.

Bright and early on Sunday morning we arrived in Miami, had one last breakfast at our favorite Terrace Restaurant and headed down the gangplank.

Before leaving, my main concern was how to spend 18 days on the ship, 18 days later we wondered where did those 18 days go? It was truly an adventure; we got to see some amazing places, were surprised at the unexpected beauty of so many of the stops and had the opportunity to over-night in Miami before heading home.

The cruise was a fantasy, today its reality. Let us be thankful for our good fortune, help others in need as we look forward to the next adventure. Take care and stay well.....God bless.

*Sergio gets around — the world! Feedback: sergio@westsideobserver.com*

**Westside Vulnerable** (Cont. from p. 8) of hose, even in daytime simulations under optimum conditions;

- They had no plan for where the hose and these trucks would be stored;
- They had no plan for who would drive the trucks (later, it was proposed the Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) volunteers would do the job);
- They proposed using capital bond money to purchase the hose, despite the legality of doing so;
- They had no explanation as to how the trucks would maneuver around earthquake debris in the streets, possibly in total darkness and without electricity;
- They could not explain how incipient fires could be fought without any water, nor who would be rescuing people trapped in damaged buildings, while firefighters were occupied setting up and filling hose with water;
- They had no explanation as to how they would avoid having these same huge hoses overrun by the conflagrations that would have developed from the merging of the many incipient fires that would be left unchecked during the hours that all this elaborate process was taking place.

Obviously, the large-diameter hose premise put forth by the water department, and which the uniformed SFFD command staff member clearly and heartily endorsed, was an absurdly adolescent exercise in trying to cover their folly in abandoning the extension of the high-pressure hydrant system into the outer neighborhoods where it has never been installed.

Fortunately, the flexible hose scheme has been abandoned, at least for the time being.

There is no dependable high-pressure and high-volume source of emergency

water for post-earthquake firefighting in the outer neighborhoods, and therefore it is entirely accurate to say: The SFFD has no viable plan for extinguishing post-earthquake fires in outlying areas of the City. As it stands now, 15 neighborhoods are exposed and will very likely be destroyed by fire following the next big Bay Area earthquake, and, neither the water department nor the fire department has any coherent plans to mitigate this situation!

If this intolerable level of official negligence on the part of the water and fire departments is not corrected, you and I and most of our neighbors will very probably lose our homes and businesses to fires after a big earthquake.

After all has been destroyed, the blame will be squarely on the management of water and fire department officials. The best that can be said for these "public servants" is that they are guilty of gross professional incompetence; the worst is that their refusal to address this issue borders on criminal negligence.

If they will not live up to their professional responsibilities, they must be relieved of their duties and replaced with competent people who will.

Our district supervisors and the mayor must be put on notice that the residents of the city's southern and western districts will no longer tolerate this egregious indifference to our personal safety and the safety of our homes and businesses. Let them know that we rightfully expect the extension of the high-pressure hydrant system into the outer neighborhoods.

Our homes, businesses and the safety of our families will someday depend on it.

*Thomas W. Doudiet is a retired assistant deputy chief with the SF Fire Department.*

**Police Militarization** (Cont. from p. 2)

None of the military items identified in DOD records appear in Police Commission meeting minutes. Neither are goods transferred from other 1033 Program recipients. Also obscure is the impact on SFPD practices of \$28.8 million in grants received from 2003 through 2016 (averaging \$2 million annually) from the Department of Homeland Security. Although these grants do not cover weaponry, they do provide military-style equipment and training. Military paradigms legitimize violence and secrecy in police practices. The SFPD's use of force showed "significant deficiencies" per the Justice Department's 2016 "Collaborative Reform Initiative". Its lack of transparency was the theme of the 2015 Civil Grand Jury report "Into the Open".

Now that weapons of war are again readily obtainable - without Pentagon

reporting requirements - greater SFPD transparency about its acquisitions is indicated. The frequency and purpose of SWAT team deployments should be publicly reported. And, the Police Commission should re-examine the impact of federal grants on the SFPD's culture and community engagement. The threatened cuts of law enforcement grants to sanctuary cities may have a silver lining; shifting resources away from militarization and toward community policing and property crimes.

*Dr. Maria Rivero and Dr. Derek Kerr were senior physicians at Laguna Honda Hospital where they repeatedly exposed wrongdoing. Both are local San Francisco residents. Contact: DerekOnVanNess@aol.com*

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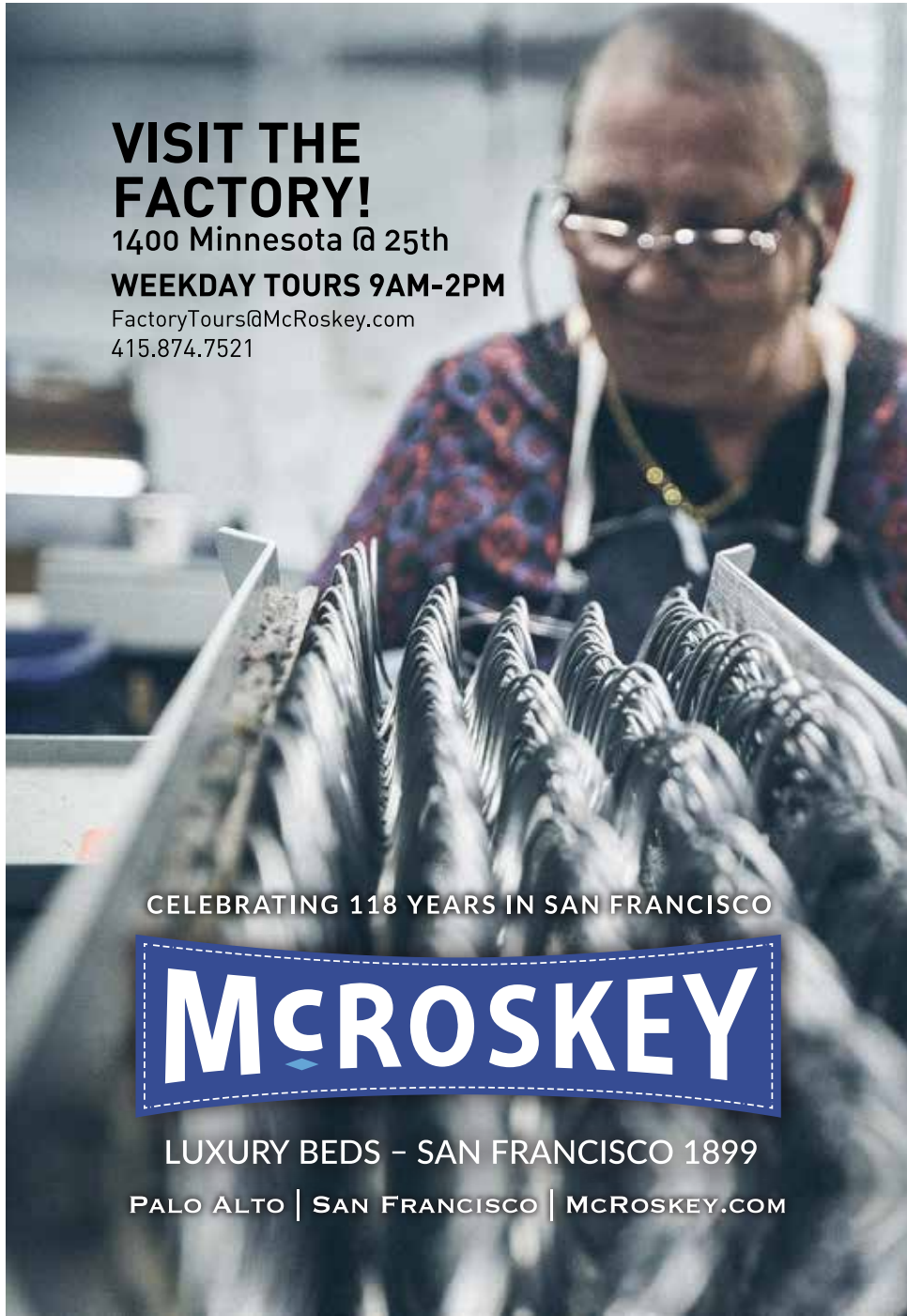
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Neighborhood Fire Plan (Cont. from p 15)

By leveraging the city’s fresh water supply and using water mains from the city’s domestic-water supply, the SFPUC is banking on the structural integrity of the system to function for firefighting purposes after a major disaster.

But, firefighting experts say the plan is a recipe for disaster because the city’s domestic water distribution system is not seismically reinforced like the AWSS, it cannot use unlimited amounts of saltwater for firefighting, and post-earthquake fires could deplete the city’s emergency drinking water supply, causing disease and other problems.

Leaders at the SFPUC reportedly balked at the estimated \$600-\$650 million cost to expand the AWSS to protect the city’s western and southern neighborhoods. By using the city’s water pipes, the SFPUC saves money because domestic water pipes are significantly cheaper to construct.


According to a report from AECOM, a private consulting firm hired by the SFPUC, each mile of AWSS pipe costs about \$19 million to install, versus approximately \$3.7 million a mile for domestic water pipes. The domestic water pipes have “push on” seals between the joints, while the AWSS uses steel tie rods to help ensure the joints stay together after massive shaking. As well, fire hydrants are built to stronger specifications to withstand the extreme pressures that can be built up with the AWSS.

If the AWSS pipeline has no breaks, or the motorized valves do their job of isolating broken segments, then high-pressure water for fire suppression will be immediately available to firefighters. Furthermore, the seawater supply is unlimited.

A fully functioning AWSS would free up firefighters to fight fires and perform rescue missions in collapsed buildings.

At a March 15, 2017 meeting of the SF Board of Supervisors’ Government Audit and Oversight Committee, Supervisor Aaron Peskin asked if a cost-benefit analysis was done comparing the co-benefits pipeline system to extending the AWSS out into the west side areas.

A consultant with AECOM, Anne



Fire District Map

Symonds, said the initial study did include looking at the AWSS extension into these areas; however, the PUC determined it would be too expensive.

“The total capital cost for that alternative was in the order of \$600 million, something like that,” Symonds told the committee members. “When we presented that to the SFPUC they said, ‘that’s not going to happen,’” to extend the AWSS throughout the entire city. “So, our management and technical teams recommended that we look at options that would find that nexus of where the potable system also needs to be improved. So this is an area where we can do both things with one project.”

“Maybe,” Peskin responded. “You’re pioneering uncharted waters. I think we should really have a real policy conversation about whether or not we should bite the bullet and talk about a half billion dollar investment. Should we bite the bullet and start doing more AWSS expansions further to the west? This has been an ongoing expensive conversation for a century. I would like to second-guess whether we should be going down the co-benefit road.”

Fewer said that after the March meeting she sought an independent third-party analysis of the cost to expand the AWSS system because she is not confident about previous cost estimates. She expects to get results in November.

“We called for an independent report on the water system and what the alternatives (are) and a cost analysis, to share the findings,” Fewer said.

“We felt that it was not an adequate analysis, so we wanted to get an independent opinion,” she said.

Fewer also said she would support including money for further extensions of the AWSS in a bond measure that the SFPUC is considering for the 2020 ballot.

Thomas Pendergast is a freelance reporter in San Francisco.

Paul Kozakiewicz, editor of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers, contributed to this report.

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