



SAN FRANCISCO
PLANNING
DEPARTMENT

JOHN RAHAIM **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Week of March 5, 2012

NOTE:

In order to provide thorough information to the Commissions, I have asked the Department's new Communications Manager, Joanna Linsangan, to compile a written version of the Director's Report. We are currently proposing that this be a bi-weekly report, though I will still continue to provide verbal updates at every Commission meeting. Commissioners will receive this written report as part of your Commission hearing package. We hope you'll find this supplementary report helpful. Please feel free to contact me or Joanna with any comments or suggestions on how to make this more useful.

PROJECTS

- **Green Connections** About 100 people attended the first open house, held February 15th. The project team received good ideas from the public. All are encouraged to stay updated with this project by joining the mailing list, to 'Like' the Green Connections page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/greenconnections.sf), and check the website regularly (<http://greenconnections.sfplanning.org>) for upcoming events. For those that are unable to attend any of the events, they may provide feedback through our online survey. The survey remains open until June 2012.
- **Transportation Sustainability Program Ordinance** – Legislation scheduled to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in the next month. An RFP for the TSP EIR was issued and proposals are due March 15. The Transportation Sustainability Program (TSP) was created to enhance the development process so that it supports the City's longstanding Transit First policy through a change in CEQA methodology and by establishing a citywide Transportation Sustainability Fee (TSF) to offset the impacts of new development on the City's transportation network.
- **North Shore to Channel Force Main Project:** The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is proposing to implement the North Shore to Channel Force Main Project in the financial district and the south of Market areas of San Francisco to provide redundancy for a failing portion of the existing North Shore Force Main, which conveys wastewater and stormwater flows. Proposed construction activities would be coordinated with the 34th America's Cup events such that no construction would occur along The Embarcadero during 2012 pre-race events or during 2013 main race events. A Preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration (PMND) was published on February 29, 2012.

- **Expansion of the Plastic Bag Ordinance:** The ordinance will expand the City's existing plastic bag ban to cover all retailers and food establishments in San Francisco and impose a ten-cent store charge for recycled-content paper, compostable, and reusable checkout bags. The legislation was signed into law by the Mayor on February 21, 2012, and will go into effect October 1, 2012. The Planning Department provided environmental review (Categorical Exemption) for the project including an analysis of the potential environmental impacts (e.g., greenhouse gas, water, aesthetics) from eliminating single-use plastic bags and, as a result, increasing the use of the other allowable bags.
- **Planning Information Center Survey** – In our effort to monitor and improve excellent customer service, the department has launched an online customer service survey for service at the Planning Information Center. This survey will be kept open throughout the year with results evaluated on a regular basis. If you've recently visited the Planning Information Center (1660 Mission St.), please fill out the online survey at <http://picsurvey.sfplanning.org>.

PUBLIC EVENTS

- **Green Connections – Walk at Heron's Head Park, Bayview, led by community partners WalkSF and SF Parks Alliance**
 - Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
 - Free event
 - EcoCenter at Heron's Head Park, 32 Jennings Street
- **Community Meeting, Future Park at 17th And Folsom – view concept designs and test adult playground equipment**
 - Sunday, March 11, 2012 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
 - Free event
 - Marshall Elementary, 1575 15th Street

ADMINISTRATION

- **Kelley Amdur** – After three years in the role, Kelley has resigned from Director of Current Planning position and has asked to be assigned to a different role within the Department in order to spend more time with her family. Work is underway to find a replacement, which we hope to fill in the next two months. Kelley will remain as the Director of Current Planning until her replacement comes on board.
- **John Billovits** – After 20 years of service, John, Planner IV in the Citywide Planning Division responsible for the Community-Based Planning Group, retired in February. We thank him for his loyalty and commitment to the Planning Department and wish him the best as he enters this new stage in life.
- **Andres Power** – Recently, Andres Power, Planner in the Citywide Planning Division accepted a position as an aide to Supervisor Wiener. Most notably, Andres led the innovative Pavement to Parks program which helped the City win the Sustainable Transport Award by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. We wish Andres the best in his new position.