
From: Poling, Jeanie (CPC)
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 7:36 PM
To: Balboa Reservoir Compliance (ECN)
Subject: FW: [fightbacksaveccsf13] Balboa Reservoir Project DSEIR

From: Francine Podenski <podenski@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 8:21 AM
To: fightbacksaveccsf13@googlegroups.com
Cc: CPC.BalboaReservoir <CPC.BalboaReservoir@sfgov.org>
Subject: Re: [fightbacksaveccsf13] Balboa Reservoir Project DSEIR

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Monica

Thank you for covering so many bases here! All excellent and important points.

Francine Podenski, Retired

City College of San Francisco.

On Sep 11, 2019, at 8:16 AM, Monica Collins <lizzy2k@gmail.com> wrote:

Everyone I know has a different set of reasons for opposing the Balboa Reservoir Project under the nose of City College. Many focus on the effects to health for young ones, not only the children at CCSF day care, but CCSF students, exposed to carcinogens and other calamitous health threats, when young and having decades ahead to become ill and suffer. Riordan High School is across the street- the students are all teenagers.

Others are concerned with already horrible traffic on one-lane Frida Kahlo Way, on which the college is situated and on which the proposed large project is to be located, with thousands of new residents.

Many are upset at the terrible damage that will result to the civic gem that is City College.

Still others observe that there is little about this enormous, for profit development that will alleviate the housing crisis in a 7 x 7 square mile city or the zooming rents and mortgages.

This push for more for profit development, with a little actually affordable housing as a sidebar, is also advancing gentrification on steroids. We're becoming a city of wealthy professionals with a few token elders or poor people remaining and losing our working and middle classes and our families. People of color are not benefiting from this- few can afford to remain in the city. For profit development is DRIVING housing inflation.

I cannot help but be appalled by the problems arising from all of these effects of this huge, horribly situated project.

What brought us to the point that developer money from for profit corporations is all that matters? When car shaming, wishing away cars, and using Orwellian terms like "transit rich" stands in for

planning, budgeting and spending? When was the last time the people making these decisions had to punch a clock? Had to worry about being late to work or school?

There are many vacant lots in San Francisco for so many years, no one can remember what stood on these fenced sites. And even more in Daly City, a few minutes from the county line. Some are now offered for sale. Besides those, what tax policies drive the hoarding of fallow land like this? This is a society. We can't do whatever we want with our property. Can't burn down our house to build a tent on the site to be one with nature. Can't have public nuisances and hazards on the property. Can't have a cross burning out front. We are governed by laws intended to protect the commonweal.

If the state can tell us we have no right to limit enormous developments in quiet residential neighborhoods, the state can manage tax policy to help the housing crisis.

This project would be disastrous for struggling students, for working class residents, for many people of color and families just squeaking by. In the 1960's our city saw the shameful bulldozing and development of the Fillmore, now gentrified into the Western Addition. Countless happy black homeowners saw their beloved Victorian houses bulldozed or run out of town on rails- literally, and were virtually deported, never to return. Ethnic cleansing. Bleaching, if you will. Are we doing same to Ocean/ Merced/ Ingleside using public policy instead of a bulldozer?

As to traffic policy, if we can dignify it with the term "policy", it's not policy deliberately to ignore traffic problems or to create worse ones. This is not benign neglect. Car shaming feels good to the virtuous, I am sure and the effects have been disastrous. There are no provisions to get people out of their cars (in order to wait for packed buses to pass them by, one after another. To watch panicked drivers fill intersections hoping the green light will stay green, only to block the intersections when the light turns red, endangering pedestrians, cyclists, enraging cross traffic drivers and those waiting. Please keep in mind that bus riders, who are absolutely above reproach, also pay the price, getting stuck in traffic snarls on Frida Kahlo, Ocean (these are both horrible already, btw) or nearby. "Forget you" is not traffic planning. Coming after cars (and who likes the internal combustion engine? NO ONE!) OK, now what are you going to do to help the situation?

I worked for CCSF for decades. I've seen countless people with little hope get their degrees, go on to university/ careers/ vocations, to leave welfare and become happy taxpayers. Often this is their last chance at success. It's why public education is an investment, why CCSF is a lifeline for so many, and has been for generations. Boost the school, don't attack or undermine it. The day any of us concerned here have to live in an adjoining town, far from transit, and drop off a pre schooler in one spot and a 7 year old student in another, have to have two jobs to manage, or to struggle to pay the bills on public assistance, to follow an academic or vocational course of study as a commuting working parent, by all means, let's talk! You can help these people or you can doom their dreams with callous and short sighted disregard for their situation, and for the well being of the school, the neighborhood, and our beloved city.

Please do your jobs and say no to this horribly misbegotten, for-profit calamity. There are lots of other and better sites to develop, and there is the money for subsidized housing in the city budget from the ubiquitous projects we see all over. It's a matter of priorities. Don't poor mouth people who need your help because they aren't developers brandishing big bucks. Some things are about more than just short sighted things like this mistake of a development.

Please excuse poor editing- it's hard to edit when you are dealing with countless points like we enumerate against this ill thought out, misbegotten development!

Thank you.

Monica Collins, former CCSF staffer, 94112 resident.

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<http://www.saveccsf.org/>

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