

November 9, 2018

Via US Mail and email

Ms. Jeanie Poling
San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103
jeanie.poling@sfgov.org

Re: Balboa Reservoir Project
Case No.: 2018-007883ENV

Dear Ms. Jeanie Poling:

This letter is regarding the proposed Balboa Reservoir Project. This development proposes increasing the human density, building height, lighting and traffic at this site. This project site is within the City of San Francisco where a variety of native plants including Coyote Brush (a keystone species) and wildlife including the White-crowned Sparrow thrive. Native and migrating birds evolved with and depend upon the native plants and the insects including butterflies as habitat. The nearby City College campus and Balboa Park provide a corridor of plants with seed, nectar and insects and nesting and resting places for over 50 species of birds.

With this increased dense development, the project should adhere to the Standards for Bird Safe Building guidelines. (see <https://sf-planning.org/standards-bird-safe-buildings>) The Standards for Bird Safe Building guidelines address lighting and glazing through a variety of options.

The City of San Francisco has a biodiversity resolution which should be supported if this proposed project proceeds (see <https://sfenvironment.org/policy/resolution-adopting-a-san-francisco-biodiversity-policy>). Often in San Francisco development projects sidewalks, cement plazas or courtyards, and other hard surfaces are considered open space. The project design should instead support the biodiversity resolution through the use of native plants in the open space, green walls and/or green roofs which will attract butterflies and birds and provide a space for people to enjoy a bit of nature.

The Central Park and SFPUC space description lists a potential lawn. Lawns require irrigation with water and maintenance; as opposed to properly established native plants which are adapted to the soil and climate of this area. Lawns are from European countries, but are not part of the natural heritage of San Francisco. There are beautiful native bunch grasses, groundcovers, low growing bushes like that aforementioned Coyote Brush and flowers which are appropriate. Since the Central Park will be in the center of buildings, this is another reason to adhere to bird safe building design to prevent bird-building collisions.

Please enclose any dog runs within a gated area to prevent erosion, pet-human and pet-wildlife conflicts.

Thank you for considering these recommendations which would benefit the existing and future residents, nearby students, and visitors.

Sincerely,


Noreen Weeden

San Francisco resident