

6/13/19

S. Hong

**SF Planning Commission**  
**Regular Meeting, June 13, 2019**  
**Comments on Agenda Item 8, 2017-016313CWP**  
**Public Land for Housing and Balboa Reservoir**

I'm Rita Evans. I've lived at 226 Judson, a few blocks from Balboa Reservoir, for 33 years. I've participated in the public input process for the Balboa Reservoir project since its inception, attending most public meetings and hearings and providing feedback on many occasions.

Point One: My neighborhood, Sunnyside, supports building housing on the site. We haven't fought the project. So it's disheartening that our input hasn't resulted in a single significant change in the project plan. Instead, the number of units has climbed from 600-700 to 1000 to at least 1100. Walkways are counted in the amount of dedicated open space. There's been no movement whatsoever in our repeated requests to promote public transportation with a developer-funded shuttle to operate between the project site, City College's main campus, and Balboa Park Station with BART and MUNI service. Some of us have spent literally hundreds of hours of our own time and it's very discouraging to realize that this "public input" process has essentially been a sham. Please listen to us!

Point Two: The extremely limited access to and from the project site—just two access points for more than 2000 residents—will inflict gridlocked traffic on the streets and neighbors, compromise public safety, and contribute to poor air quality. Incredibly, the Planning Department opposes a third access point to the west. Planners have succumbed to pressure from the residents of Westwood Park who oppose not only vehicular access but also pedestrian and cyclist access! Every neighborhood surrounding the project will be affected by it and it is wrong to shield just one, Westwood Park, while inflicting the impacts on the others. It is appalling that the Planning Department supports this in direct opposition to its own policies on "Eight Elements of a Great Neighborhood," including "Walking to Shops," "Getting around Easily," and "Part of the Whole." (SF Planning Department, <https://sf-planning.org/eight-elements-great-neighborhood>). This project must include access to the west via San Ramon or another Westwood Park street. Please connect our neighborhoods!

Point Three: This complex project involves many city departments and agencies including SFMTA and Planning Department; the Public Utility Commission; and entities outside the city including City College of San Francisco, BART, and Caltrans. It is critical that city staff have a deep understanding of many issues and that they understand why it's essential to have clear communication between, and cooperation among, every organization that is involved. Instead, staff are reassigned. Turnover has members of the public having to go over the same issues with newly assigned staff trying to get up to speed. The bigger picture is ignored and there is little understanding of how the various agencies have to work together if the project is to be successful. Valuable knowledge and contacts are lost. This subverts the planning process and public participation. Please give this project the priority it deserves!

Thank you for taking my comments.

