

---

**From:** Harry Bernstein <riquerique@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 2:30 AM  
**To:** Hong, Seung Yen (CPC)  
**Subject:** June 13 meeting, Item 8 on the Agenda: 017-016313CWP (S. HONG): PUBLIC LAND FOR HOUSING AND BALBOA RESERVOIR

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Planning Commission  
c/o Commission Secretary Seungyen Hong  
San Francisco, CA

Dear Commissioners

In 1984 and 1985, a time of another housing shortage in San Francisco, the Mayor and Board of Supervisors approved 200-400 units of housing on the Southern basin of the Balboa Reservoir. The private developer agreed to pay the City the historic value of the property—a mere \$36,900! Over several years, the voters weighed in and that deal, advocated by two mayors, was terminated. Those voters assured that this irreplaceable public land would remain public, but for how long?

Now, after more than 20 years, we are at a crossroads once again. The SFPUC is considering disposing of the lower Balboa Reservoir. The current proposal with lead developer Avalon Bay privatizes this public land, yielding at least 60% market rate housing, with perhaps up to 1550 units. But adding more market rate housing does not solve the housing crisis. This project also threatens the viability of City College through removal of the College's biggest parking area on the lower Reservoir—used for parking since 1958, and a part of West Campus before that. The developer does not wish to mitigate the loss of parking. The long-promised and much-needed Performing Arts Education Center, on the upper Reservoir, representing an investment of \$26 million already, is now at risk as well.

Please resist the push to privatize this invaluable public land. Reject the proposed development and protect City College.

Harry Bernstein  
[riquerique@yahoo.com](mailto:riquerique@yahoo.com)