



1459 – 18th Street, #152  
San Francisco, CA 94107  
June 17, 2009

Senator Mark Leno  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14800  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: SB 792: Oppose

Dear Senator Leno:

At this month's general membership meeting, the Potrero Hill Democratic Club voted to oppose SB 792, your bill to enable the use of State Parks lands to facilitate the development of the Hunters Point Shipyard/Candlestick Point area. The communities of Potrero Hill have been strongly committed to environmental justice, community-based development planning, and open-space conservation issues for many years now. We agree with the Sierra Club and a host of environmental advocates across the state who have deep concerns about this legislation and its impact on our state parklands.

We recognize that redevelopment in the Bayview is vital, and that SB 792 enables part of it. As a club, we endorsed Proposition G. But we don't want such development to damage parklands irreparably in the process. We are particularly concerned with the developers' intention to take 5% (42 acres) of the total land specifically out of the state parkland (a loss of almost 25% to the park). With 700+ acres, they certainly have room to put housing on 42 acres somewhere else, without jeopardizing open space necessary for many species' habitat.

We strongly support a recreational component that is open to all San Franciscans and does not become a private park only available to condo residents. But we cannot tell what is really being planned. We would like the bill make it clear and understandable, so that the initial vision can be realized in the future regardless of who the players are.

We respectfully request that you rework this bill to make its intent more transparent, including a map and clear assurances that now and into the future there will be no loss of wildlife habitat, and that parks will always be open to the public. Thank you for your consideration, and please let us know how you intend to amend the bill.

Sincerely,

Joni Eisen, President, on behalf of  
Potrero Hill Democratic Club

Cc: Assemblymember Ammiano