

File No. 160183

Committee Item No. 2

Board Item No. _____

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Land Use and Transportation

Date March 14, 2016

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date _____

Cmte Board

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Resolution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ordinance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Legislative Digest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Budget and Legislative Analyst Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Youth Commission Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Introduction Form |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Department/Agency Cover Letter and/or Report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Information Form |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Grant Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Subcontract Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Contract/Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Form 126 - Ethics Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Award Letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Form 700 |
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Completed by: Alisa Somera Date March 11, 2016

Completed by: _____ Date _____

1 [Urging the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to Expand Public Access to the
2 Peninsula Watershed Lands]

3 **Resolution urging the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to provide enhanced**
4 **public access to existing roads and trails in the Peninsula Watershed Lands consistent**
5 **with the goals of protecting the water supply and the environmental quality of the area.**
6

7 WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Peninsula
8 Watershed encompasses approximately 23,000 acres of land in San Mateo County and is a
9 state-designated Fish and Wildlife Refuge; and

10 WHEREAS, The Peninsula Watershed (Watershed) is a component of the Hetch
11 Hetchy Regional Water System and home to the highest concentration of native, rare,
12 threatened, and endangered species in the nine-county Bay Area region; and

13 WHEREAS, As one of the region's unique natural habitats, the Peninsula Watershed
14 provides a significant and valued recreational opportunity for the community throughout the
15 San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California through the use of its public trail system; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Interior has a 19,000 acre Scenic
17 Easement on the western portion of the Watershed and a 4,000 acre Scenic and Recreation
18 easement on the eastern side of the watershed administered by the GGNRA; and

19 WHEREAS, Access to open space for both San Francisco residents and other
20 residents of the Bay Area has been a longstanding concern of the City; and

21 WHEREAS, The Peninsula Watershed's two regional trail systems are the Crystal
22 Springs Regional Trail, operated and maintained by San Mateo County Parks, and the Bay
23 Area Ridge Trail, operated and maintained by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
24 and connecting the Sweeney Ridge Trail operated by the Golden Gate National Recreation
25 Area (GGNRA); and

1 WHEREAS, These regional trails, and related connectors, provide 31 miles of existing
2 trail access to the Peninsula Watershed; and

3 WHEREAS, In 2001, the SFPUC adopted the Peninsula Watershed Management Plan
4 (PWMP) and the PWMP Final Environmental Impact Report, and this context provides the
5 policy and environmental compliance framework in which future management actions on the
6 Peninsula Watershed are considered; and

7 WHEREAS, Other Bay Area water districts, including the Marin Municipal Water District
8 and the East Bay Municipal Utility District, allow public access to their lands without
9 compromising water safety or environmental quality and that the public regularly shares
10 service roads with maintenance vehicles in these and other public lands; and

11 WHEREAS, The SFPUC, San Mateo County Parks, and the GGNRA have all declared
12 support for opening the existing Whiting Ridge Trail to public access, but no concrete plans
13 have been developed; and

14 WHEREAS, In its 2015 management plan, the GGNRA, the owner of the Scenic
15 Easement over the watershed, has encouraged the construction of a new multi-use trail on
16 watershed lands from Cañada Rd to Skyline Boulevard North of the Phleger Estate unit of the
17 GGNRA and South of CA-92; and

18 WHEREAS, The SFPUC recognizes that additional educational opportunities can be
19 increased, consistent with the goals and objectives of the PWMP with the construction of new
20 recreational trails combined with improvements to existing trails and appropriate staffing and
21 maintenance of the Watershed Trail System; now, therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors strongly supports increased
23 recreational access to the Peninsula Watershed for educational use that is compatible with
24 protecting both drinking water quality and threatened and endangered wildlife, consistent with
25 the PWMP; and, be it

1 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors strongly supports the PUC's
2 current efforts to develop a permit system for unsupervised public access to the Fifield-Cahill
3 Ridge Trail and urges the SFPUC to expedite implementation of this permit system by the end
4 of 2016; and, be it

5 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFPUC to work in
6 collaboration with the San Mateo County Parks Department, the GGNRA, and the California
7 State Parks System to focus on closing gaps on the Bay Area Ridge Trail and other regional
8 trails on the Peninsula Watershed, which includes the following:

- 9 - opening the 2 mile section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail north of Highway 92
10 through Skylawn Cemetery to the SFPUC Cemetery Gate on Cahill Ridge;
- 11 - the operation of the entire 16 miles of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on SFPUC
12 property, and the design and construction of the North San Andreas Trail Connector;
- 13 - constructing the Bay Area Ridge Trail south of CA-92 to the GGNRA Phleger
14 Estate; and, be it

15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors urges the SFPUC to provide
16 additional access to the watershed beyond what is included in the current PWMP, subject to
17 applicable environmental clearances, including the following:

- 18 - working with the GGNRA and San Mateo County Parks to determine what steps
19 are necessary to open the Whiting Ridge Trail to public access, subject to relevant federal and
20 state environmental review requirement;
- 21 - proposing possible routes for further public access to existing service roads by
22 permit-holders and that these routes include at least one east-west route starting on the
23 Crystal Springs Regional Trail near the Western end of the San Andreas reservoir dam,
24 connecting to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and then passing the Pilarcitos Reservoir and
25 ultimately connecting to the trail system in the Corral de Tierra unit of the GGNRA;

1 - proposing the opening of other such routes north of Highway CA-92 that would
2 permit access to a variety of scenic loop routes for hikers and riders; and

3 - proposing the reopening of Old Cañada Road on the west side of Upper Crystal
4 Springs Reservoir and the construction of a new multi-use trail on watershed lands from this
5 road to the Ridge Trail south of CA-92; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors requests the SFPUC to report
7 on its progress developing these plans, including the projects already approved as well as the
8 potential revisions to the PWMP listed here, by September 1, 2016.

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Somera, Alisa (BOS)

From: Lieven <lievenleroy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:15 AM
To: Cohen, Malia (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Somera, Alisa (BOS)
Subject: Please help keep the SF Peninsula watershed safe

Dear Supervisors Cohen and Peskin:

I'm writing to ask you to oppose the resolution to further open the San Francisco Peninsula watershed.

I've lived and hiked in San Francisco and the Peninsula for 25 years. The watershed is more beautiful and more untouched than the rest of the Peninsula for the simple reason that it has been carefully protected. Statements from Open the SF Watershed are dangerously oversimplifying the issue. (Just "take down a few signs," Scott Wiener declares in their promotional video!)

The trails at the Marin watershed demonstrate how expensive and risky it is to open such an area. The Marin Municipal Water District has not only its own staff but several affiliated nonprofit organizations who work to keep trails safe and to protect water quality, plants and wildlife. They are still only partly successful: that area is not as well preserved as the SF watershed, even though it is in a lower traffic area than the Peninsula. I've hiked there and watched dogs chase off birds and swim in the water. The workers I spoke with talked about the constant fire risks.

Further, most of the Peninsula watershed is 20 miles from downtown and already surrounded by excellent existing parks and trails. If San Francisco opens the watershed, it is basically paying to provide San Mateo County with another recreation area.

I've found the Open the SF Watershed movement is curating their Facebook page to present only positive commentary. So I've started <https://www.facebook.com/savetheSFwatershed/> as a way to help share more information.

I urge you to look past their broad claims and entitled views about how the land should be used. Its best use is to preserve it for future generations. Personally, in order to keep the watershed and its endangered species safe, I'm happy to keep admiring it from the other side of a fence.

Thank you,
Lieven Leroy

Somera, Alisa (BOS)

From: Gene Chaput <genechaput@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 7:07 PM
To: Calvillo, Angela (BOS); Major, Erica (BOS); Somera, Alisa (BOS)
Subject: Request for the SF BoS to vote NO on opening the Crystal Springs watershed to the public

Please include this request in the record to urge the SF BoS NOT to open the Crystal Springs reservoir and watershed to the general public.

This is an urgent and most necessary request to deny consideration of an ill conceived 'proposed plan' that the Crystal Springs Reservoir and Open Space watershed be opened for public access; specifically bikers and hikers but, as importantly, to any form of human encounter. We are firmly against any suggestion(s) or actions that public access be approved in or to the pristine Crystal Springs watershed area as devastation and destruction to all living within the greenbelt will result and its future irretrievably lost. This 'experiment' was tried many years back and FAILED miserably ... and the idea was subsequently rejected/abandoned. The Crystal Springs watershed is a precious asset belonging to ALL ... but to be enjoyed from a distance. Human interaction will produce NO positive effect; on the contrary, it will de-enhance any benefit to the retention of this last piece of unspoiled open space in the SF Bay Area.

Most sincerely,

Susan and Gene Chaput
1(415) 613-0014

Somera, Alisa (BOS)

From: Rachel Kesel <rachelkesel@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2016 6:41 PM
To: Somera, Alisa (BOS)
Subject: Fwd: Protect our drinking water supply on the Peninsula Watershed lands

Dear Alisa Somera,

I am forwarding this message for inclusion in the public record.

Thank you
Rachel Kesel

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Rachel Kesel <rachelkesel@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 8, 2016 at 9:34 PM
Subject: Protect our drinking water supply on the Peninsula Watershed lands
To: Malia.Cohen@sfgov.org, aaron.peskin@sfgov.org
Cc: John.Avalos@sfgov.org, "Campos, David (BOS)" <david.campos@sfgov.org>, scott.wiener@sfgov.org

Dear Supervisors Cohen and Peskin,

I urge you to vote against the resolution to open the Peninsula Watershed for unrestricted recreation in the Land Use and Transportation Committee.

I am a San Francisco resident and PUC rate payer. I have spent the last ten years devoted to the responsible stewardship of our public lands as a natural resource manager. I am an avid hiker, bicyclist and dog walker. I would rather have my water supply protected over having access to the Peninsula Watershed.

The watershed lands provide incredible and irreplaceable services to the Bay Area in terms of water filtration and storage. I would have hoped that four years of drought and the Rim Fire would have taught our leaders and the public to appreciate those services more fully. Make no mistake, vital ecosystem services are placed in harm's way with the opening of the watershed for unrestricted access.

Scott Wiener briefly mentions environmental review in his advertisement for opening the watershed before asserting that it's as easy as removing a few signs and opening a few gates. This is short-sighted and very narrow thinking. Supervisor Wiener fails to address funding for rangers and staff to maintain the roads and trails with increased use. In an area rife with Sudden Oak Death, who will cover all the roads and trails after a storm like yesterday's to ensure that trail users are safe from failing tanoaks? Who will ensure parking areas are safe and clean? This thinking also fails to account for dealing with impacts to the biological resources, including the sixteen threatened and endangered species on the watershed.

If we are going to open the Watershed, the City must provide sufficient rangers and maintenance staff to cover the 23,000 acres every day of the year. As a tax payer in San Francisco, I do not want to fund that in San Mateo County. How will tax payers without cars be afforded access to their watershed? Will the city begin shuttle service to ensure equitable access? There are many residents who will *never* visit the watershed if it is opened. The PUC has assured rate payers that they will not bear the financial burden of recreation on its lands. So who will pay? Hikers and bikers? Or will we open the watershed and provide inadequate services to protect our water supply and the rich biodiversity of the lands?

These are difficult questions at a time when there is great pressure to provide more recreation opportunities. I believe that the Land Use and Transportation Committee wants to steward San Francisco's land, and I hope you will acknowledge the challenges and investigate the costs of land management before passing any resolutions to open the watershed. I recognize your situation but urge you to do what is best for the public, which is to protect our water supply and the biodiversity of the watershed.

Best Wishes,

Rachel Kesel
33 Massasoit Street
San Francisco, Ca
94110

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco 94102-4689
Tel. No. 554-5184
Fax No. 554-5163
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

MEMORANDUM

TO: Harlan Kelly, Jr., General Manager, Public Utilities Commission
Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, Recreation and Park Department

FROM: *AS* Alisa Somera, Assistant Clerk, Board of Supervisors

DATE: March 4, 2016

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On February 23, 2016, Supervisor Avalos introduced the following proposed legislation, and on March 1, 2016, it was referred to the Land Use and Transportation Committee:

File No. 160183

Resolution urging the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to provide enhanced public access to existing roads and trails in the Peninsula Watershed Lands consistent with the goals of protecting the water supply and the environmental quality of the area.

This matter is being referred to you since it may affect your department.

If you have any comments or reports to be considered with the proposed legislation, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email: alisa.somera@sfgov.org.

c: Juliet Ellis, Public Utilities Commission
Sarah Ballard, Recreation and Park Department

Print Form

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or the Mayor

RECEIVED
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 SAN FRANCISCO
 SEP 24 AM 11:35
 Time stamp
 or meeting date AK

I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one):

- 1. For reference to Committee.
An ordinance, resolution, motion, or charter amendment.
- 2. Request for next printed agenda without reference to Committee.
- 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee.
- 4. Request for letter beginning "Supervisor [] inquires"
- 5. City Attorney request.
- 6. Call File No. [] from Committee.
- 7. Budget Analyst request (attach written motion).
- 8. Substitute Legislation File No. []
- 9. Request for Closed Session (attach written motion).
- 10. Board to Sit as A Committee of the Whole.
- 11. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on []

Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following:

- Small Business Commission Youth Commission Ethics Commission
- Planning Commission Building Inspection Commission

Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use a Imperative

Sponsor(s):

Supervisors Avalos, Wiener

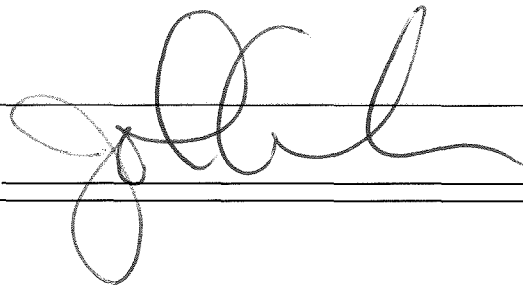
Subject:

Resolution - Urging the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to Expand Public Access to the Peninsula Watershed Lands

The text is listed below or attached:

[Empty box for text listing]

Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor: _____



For Clerk's Use Only: