



**OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER**  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield  
Controller  
Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

November 30, 2020

The Honorable Garrett L. Wong  
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco  
400 McAllister Street, Room 008  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Judge Wong,

The following is in response to the 2019-2020 Civil Grand Jury report, *Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center*. As per California Penal Code §933(c) our response is being submitted to the Presiding Judge today.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Civil Grand Jury report. If you have any questions, please contact me at [Todd.Rydstrom@sfgov.org](mailto:Todd.Rydstrom@sfgov.org).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Rydstrom".

Todd Rydstrom  
Deputy Controller

cc: Ben Rosenfield, Controller  
Ted Egan, Chief Economist

Report Title [Publication Date]	F#	Finding (text may be duplicated due to spanning and multiple respondent effects)	Respondent Assigned by CGJ [Response Due Date]	Finding Response (Agree/Disagree)	Finding Response Text
Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center [October 1, 2020]	F3	Moscone's primary economic benefit to San Francisco is indirect, deriving from conventions that help fill hotel rooms and support local travel and tourism-related activities.	Controller [November 30, 2020]	Agree with the finding	Jobs supported by attendees at Moscone, in sectors like accommodations, food services, retail, and transportation, greatly exceed the jobs at the facility itself.
Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center [October 1, 2020]	F4	Moscone's convention business supports a significant travel and tourism-based workforce that is largely local, vital and diverse.	Controller [November 30, 2020]	Agree with the finding	Hospitality is one of the largest industries in the city. Hospitality workers are more likely to live in San Francisco than workers in other local industries. The industry also employs more Latinx workers than other local industries.
Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center [October 1, 2020]	F5	Economic activity due to Moscone's conventions is a significant part of the City's entire tourism sector, about one fifth of it.	Controller [November 30, 2020]	Agree with the finding	Direct spending by convention attendees is approximately 20% of total direct visitor spending in San Francisco, based on recent SF Travel research.
Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center [October 1, 2020]	F9	In the face of San Francisco's challenges in the areas of (i) event hosting costs, (ii) street blight and (iii) unwelcome street behavior, increasing Moscone's pricing discounts could at least partly offset these to more effectively attract and retain convention events.	Controller [November 30, 2020]	Agree with the finding	As stated, it is likely true that discounting Moscone would make San Francisco more competitive. However, policy-makers should also consider: i) because of the pandemic, the near-term impact of discounts will be very limited, and ii) many factors contribute to San Francisco's high cost of hosting conventions, beyond Moscone's fees. Decision-makers should examine the trends around these cost drivers before deciding what would be the most effective way to improve San Francisco's competitiveness for conventions.

Report Title [Publication Date]	R# [for F#]	Recommendation (text may be duplicated due to spanning and multiple respondent effects)	Respondent Assigned by CGJ [Response Due Date]	Recommendation Response (Implementation)	Recommendation Response Text
Sustain Our City's High Performing Moscone Convention Center [October 1, 2020]					
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