

Propose for approval

lavender lane - a public right of way

Harvey's Garden

LGBTQ Veterans Grove

Sample petition w/ comments

letter of intent

B.A.R. article 4/12

FOR CITY HALL, Room 263

F TREE CANOPY HEARING

Comment from Concerned Neighbor,

As with the Arts Commission, as they talk about finding an 'artist' for the new canopy, I told them that **Howard Grant** is the **Architect** and **Gilbert Baker** is the **Artist**. We don't need another giant new art peice, because we have the iconic rainbow flag, or a new architect, such as Perkins Eastman as they have shown only to change the integrity of the site..

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must be enforced when considering demolition & replacement of the HM Plaza, memorial, and green belt.

The act requires:

No projects which would cause significant environmental effects should be approved as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or mitigation measures that would lessen those effects.

- Environmental impact reports (EIRs) shall be used to provide full public disclosure of the environmental impacts of a proposed project.
- EIRs shall include identification of all significant effects, alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.
- Neighbors affected by a proposed project can sue to ensure enforcement of CEQA!

Simplify the GROUND PLANE - and remove the gravel fill at Harvey Milk Mezzanine/Concourse, remove the excess gravel dumped on the terraced gardens and replace with soil, mulch, plantings and irrigation. Refurbish and polish the existing terazzo for the entire GROUND PLANE at the HM Mezzanine.

"Respect Open Space

John Goldsmith  
146 Noe St.  
SF CA 94114

"When did the Castro become an ashtray? We deserve better," said Caldera. "By reclaiming this space and making it sacred, we could prevent this from happening."

District 8 Supervisor Scott Wiener said he supports the proposal and believes it could help address some of the loitering issues occurring at the plaza.

"From what I have seen so far, I think it sounds like a great idea," he said. "One of the challenges we have at Harvey Milk Plaza is a significant portion of the plaza is underutilized and doesn't have enough activity. So activating that space by having this project there and by having volunteers there will improve the overall use and vitality of the plaza."

In recent weeks both the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro have endorsed the grove idea. The Castro Community Benefit District is expected to support the proposal at its meeting tonight (Thursday, April 12) and could later serve as the grove's fiscal agent.

"It really makes a lot of sense," said Andrea Aiello, the CBD's executive director. "If another group of people can bring love and care to Harvey Milk Plaza, that is always welcome."

One of the first memorials ever created to honor LGBT service members is the gravesite in Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. for Leonard Matlovich, an Air Force sergeant who was discharged after coming out publicly and died in 1988. A onetime San Francisco resident – a plaque adorns the 18th Street apartment building where he once lived – Matlovich intended for his tombstone to honor not merely himself but all LGBT people who served in the military.

On Veterans Day in 2000 a memorial for LGBT veterans was dedicated at the National Cemetery in Phoenix, Arizona. The following year an LGBT veterans monument was dedicated at Desert Memorial Park cemetery in Cathedral City next to Palm Springs.

A legislative attempt in 2003 by then-Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe (D-San Diego), now a state senator, to create a commission charged with creating an official California LGBT Veterans' Memorial, funded by private donors, failed to gain traction in Sacramento when first proposed in 2003. The Legislature did pass such a bill in 2004 but then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed it.

It is believed that BART, which oversees the Castro Muni station's public plaza area, would have to sign off on the proposal for the LGBT veterans memorial grove. Caldera plans to seek the agency's approval in the coming months.

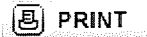
Asked for comment by press time Wednesday, a BART spokesman was still trying to determine if the transit agency did in fact control the plot of ground Caldera is pursuing for the grove idea.

Constructing the veterans grove elements will cost be between \$30,000 and \$50,000, Caldera estimates. He intends to seek donations to pay for it and would like to have a soft dedication during this year's annual Milk Moscone Candlelight March, which commemorates the November 27, 1978 deaths of Milk and former Mayor George Moscone.

He is shooting to hold a larger groundbreaking ceremony on May 22, Harvey Milk Day, in 2013.

Anyone interested in more information about the grove proposal can email Caldera at <mailto:sfcommishcaldera@aol.com>.

04/12/2012



# LGBT vets memorial proposed for Castro

by **Matthew S. Bajko**

[m.bajko@ebar.com](mailto:m.bajko@ebar.com)

A gay veteran is proposing to turn a forgotten patch of Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro into the nation's first grove dedicated to LGBT veterans.

John Caldera, who was elected president of the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Commission in January, has been lining up support from local veterans' groups and community organizations for his proposal. It would be the country's fourth known memorial to out U.S. service members and the second located in California.

The landscaped area Caldera is eyeing for the project is located at the corner of Collingwood and Market streets above the Castro Muni station. On the left side of the walkway leading toward the transit station is an enclosed planter space that contains several boulders, plants, and five palm trees.

The Palmae would represent the five branches of the U.S. military, including the Coast Guard, noted Caldera, who was honorably discharged as an U.S. Navy hospital corpsman. Five metal rounds that are part of the design of the fencing in the area could be adorned with the seals for each branch of the military, with a sixth round used to display the grove's logo.

"It is in the shadow of the rainbow flag and across the street from Pink Triangle Park," Caldera pointed out to a *Bay Area Reporter* reporter during a recent visit to the site.

The medium-sized stones currently placed there could be dedicated to LGBT vets who committed suicide or died while homeless, suggested Caldera, who is the commander of the LGBT-focused Bob Basker Post 315 of the American Legion and executive director the San Francisco chapter of Veterans For Peace.

"What better place to do it than at Harvey Milk Plaza? He was a vet," noted Caldera.

Milk, who became the city's first out politician, served aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake as a diving officer during the Korean War. Following Milk's assassination in 1978, the plaza surrounding the Castro Muni station was named in his honor after it opened in 1980.

The public outdoor space, however, is less than hospitable. There is little reason for the many commuters and Castro visitors who walk through the area to stop where the veterans grove would be. Caldera thinks his proposal would enliven that section of the plaza.

LGBT vets and other volunteers could care for the area and clean it up, said Caldera, pointing out that cigarette butts now litter the ground. He envisions the local LGBT American Legion post conducting at the site a post everlasting ceremony honoring deceased members.

Please consider signing this initiative to support the creation of the nation's first LGBTQ Veterans Grove (2499 Market St) and Harvey's Garden - A Watershed Garden (2401 Market St). The 2 street parks are an important part of existing open space areas with mature landscaping at a historically and culturally significant LGBTQ site that is also an important transit hub.

NAME (please print)	CITY/STATE/COUNTRY	SUPPORT? YES or NO	SIGNATURE	Comment/contact
Nicholas Huff	Kenosha/WI/USA	Yes	<i>Nicholas Huff</i>	More greenery!
Rafael Porto	Indpls/IN/USA	Yes	<i>Rafael Porto</i>	Love the greenbelt
Diane Sciaretta	SF CA 94109	YES	<i>Diane Sciaretta</i>	
Ivana Rosas	94117	Y/N	<i>Ivana Rosas</i>	Respect the past Be transparent
DOMINIK MOLICA	SE CA USA	YES	<i>Domini Molica</i>	
LOZ ARBEL	SE CA 94118	YES	<i>Loz Arbel</i>	More trees
Jim Cruz-Yall	SF CA 94114	Yes	<i>Jim Cruz-Yall</i>	
Michael Ruppert	SF CA 94110	YES	<i>Michael Ruppert</i>	
DAVIDA KAPLER	SF CA 94114	YES	<i>David Kaplan</i>	More trees!
Edward M. New	SF CA 94114	YES	<i>Edward M. New</i>	More trees!
PETER SFERRA	SAN JOSE, CA 95118	YES	<i>Peter Sferra</i>	
LUCAS MCGUIROS	BRAZIL	YES	<i>Lucas McGuiros</i>	Hi FROM BRAZIL
Brad Baker	PS. CA 92234	YES	<i>Brad Baker</i>	
Jean Allen	Oakland/CA/US	Yess	<i>Jean Allen</i>	More Green
Ankur Bajaj	SF CA 94110	YES	<i>Ankur Bajaj</i>	No need!
Trinity Lyman	Oakland/CA	YES	<i>Trinity Lyman</i>	remember trans milit
YOLANDA STANTON	FREMENT, CA	YES	<i>Yolanda Stanton</i>	
John Cunningham	Oakland	yes	<i>John Cunningham</i>	Get

More information can be found on FACEBOOK:  
LGBTQ VETERANS GROVE and HARVEY'S GARDEN

THANK YOU!  
JOHN GOLDSMITH

Please consider signing this initiative to support the creation of the nation's first LGBTQ Veterans Grove (2499 Market St) and Harvey's Garden - A Watershed Garden (2401 Market St). The 2 street parks are an important part of existing open space areas with mature landscaping at a historically and culturally significant LGBTQ site that is also an important transit hub.

NAME (please print)	CITY/STATE/COUNTRY	SUPPORT? YES or NO	SIGNATURE	Comment/contact
Fabian Ruelilo	San Francisco, CA	YES		94114 keep it green
Charnesh Kaur	"	YES		94114
Bob Alexander	SF CA	YES		94114
S. Howard	SF CA	YES		94122
PYANAV P	SF CA	YES		94114
Paul A Aguilar	SF CA	YES		94127
Steve Darr	SF CA	YES		94110
Jason Su	SF CA	YES		94117
Alvina X	Sunnyvale CA	YES		94085
HAL FISCHER	SAN FRANCISCO	YES		94117
Tom Borden	San Francisco	YES		94127
Eddie Bartley	San Francisco	YES		94107
Irving Hutcheon	SF CA	YES		94131
RICHARD TITUS	SF CA	YES		94114
KARRY TRASK	S.F. CA	YES		94131
Heather Ten	SF. CA	YES!		94110
Maria M. Orellana	Oakland CA	YES		94411
Laura R RIVERA	SAN FRANCISCO	YES		YES
Jennifer Schuster	San Francisco	YES		94117

More information can be found on FACEBOOK:  
LGBTQ VETERANS GROVE and HARVEY's GARDEN

THANK YOU!  
JOHN GOLDSMITH



# Street Parks Application

Submit this application to request that your greening project be included in the Street Parks program. Through the Street Parks program, you are eligible to receive benefits and services for the improvement of your green open space. By joining the Street Parks program, you agree to work with Public Works, the San Francisco Parks Alliance, and your community to create and maintain your green open space. (Please note: the Street Parks program does not provide funding.)

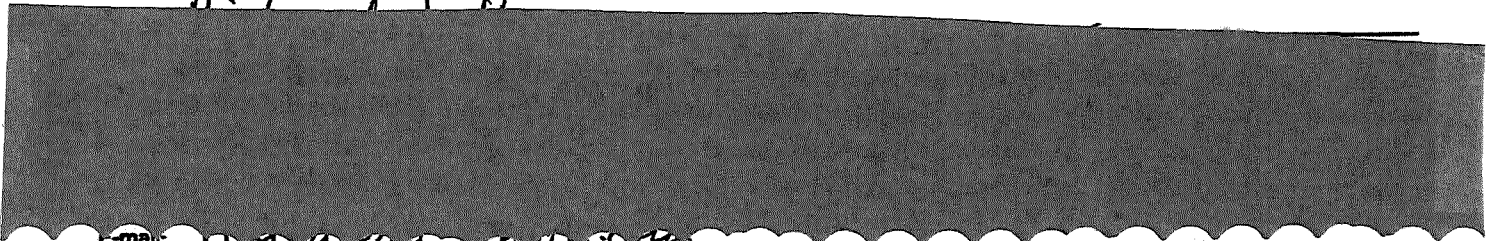
After your application is received, the Parks Alliance will contact you to schedule a meeting at your site to discuss your plans, and to explore if there are ways we can work together to improve your site.

### Please tell us about yourself:

I am an:

- Adjacent property owner
- Adjacent property tenant
- Neighbor
- Local business owner

How many blocks from your home or business to the parcel? 0 Same block



E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Best Contact: John Goldsmith 'Park Steward' (415) 830-1799 jgoldsmith@gmail.com

### Please tell us about your site:

Site name (if any): LGBTQ Veterans Grove

Site location (nearest address or cross streets): 2499 Market St (@collingwood) SF CA 94114

### Site type is (please select one below):

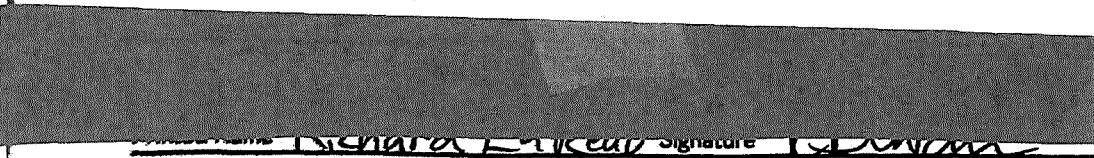
- Sidewalk
  - Triangle/ Traffic Circle
  - Steps
  - Street Median
  - Traffic Bulge
  - Unimproved right-of-way
- Other, Please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

### Safety:

Please be aware that gardening in or near the street requires a high level of safety awareness. Extreme care should be taken at all times to make yourself visible to traffic.

*Disclaimer: The Street Parks applicant releases the City of San Francisco and San Francisco Parks Alliance, their officers, servants and agents from and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City, the Parks Alliance, their officers, servants and agents from all liability relating to or arising from the use and occupation of the property or any breach, violation, non-performance or non-observance by the garden sponsor of any condition, covenant, term or proviso set out herewith.*

th gardening in or near the street.



Date 3/5/18

Please e-mail, fax, or mail this application to:

San Francisco Parks Alliance  
Attention: Street Parks Program  
1665 Mission St., Suite 320  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Email: marissa@sfparksalliance.org  
Fax: 415-703-0889  
Phone: 415-621-3260, ext. 101



# Street Parks Agreement

I agree that any proposed improvements to the site must be submitted in writing to the Street Parks staff and any work at the site in regards to proposed improvements must be approved by Public Works staff.

I understand that as a Street Park steward, my primary role is to care for the Street Park noted below. I agree to care for the site for a minimum of three years. If I plan to move away from the area, or for any other reason will not be able to fulfill this obligation, I will notify Street Parks staff.

I understand that I must notify the Street Parks staff if primary stewardship is going to be transferred to another individual. I agree to provide Street Parks staff with the name and contact information for the new steward.

I understand that the Street Parks program doesn't imply transfer of ownership or liability in regards to what is defined in the San Francisco Municipal Code. Street Park stewards are allowed use of site on a temporary basis and any official City use at the site will take priority regardless of improvements or Street Park project status.

## Maintenance and Water

I agree to keep my site well maintained and in good condition. I will remove weeds, litter, and graffiti on site. I understand that I have responsibility to water and maintain landscaping at the site. I understand that Public Works will pay for water at the site for the first three years (from the time the water meter is installed). After the first three years, the Street Parks group is responsible for raising funds to pay for water at the rates determined by SFPUC.

## Communications and Marketing

When creating promotional materials (printed and online) and signage related to the site, you agree to include the credit line below and the logos of Public Works and Parks Alliance. (Print-ready logos will be provided to you by Parks Alliance.)

### Credit Line:

Street Parks is a land stewardship program co-managed by Public Works and Parks Alliance that works with community members to convert City-owned parcels into green open space, verdant gardens, wildlife habitat, neighborhood gathering spaces, and more.

lined above.

Printed name

Signature

Date

LGBTQ Veterans Grove

Street Park Site Name

2499 Market St. SF CA 94114

Street Park Location (address or cross streets)

Please email, fax, or mail this agreement to:

San Francisco Parks Alliance  
Attention: Street Parks Program  
1663 Mission Street, Suite 320  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Email: [marissa@sfparksalliance.org](mailto:marissa@sfparksalliance.org)  
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### Please tell us about yourself:

I am an:

- Adjacent property owner
- Adjacent property tenant *long time renter*
- Neighbor
- Local business owner

How many blocks from your home or business to the parcel? 1 Block

E-mail: adrienne.southern@sf.gov

\*Best Contact: John Goldsmith (neighbor/parksteward) 415-830-1799  
jgoldsmith@gmail

### Please tell us about your site:

Site name (if any): Harvey's Garden - A Watershed Garden

Site location (nearest address or cross streets): Next to Veteran's Grove - proposed -

### Site type is (please select one below):

- Sidewalk
- Steps
- Traffic Bulge
- Triangle/Traffic Circle
- Street Median
- Unimproved right-of-way
- Other, Please describe: Transit Hub Green Space

### Safety:

Please be aware that gardening in or near the street requires a high level of safety awareness. Extreme care should be taken at all times to make yourself visible to traffic.

**Disclaimer:** The Street Parks applicant releases the City of San Francisco and San Francisco Parks Alliance, their officers, servants and agents from and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City, the Parks Alliance, their officers, servants and agents from all liability relating to or arising from the use and occupation of the property or any breach, violation, non-performance or non-observance by the garden sponsor of any condition, covenant, term or proviso set out herewith.

Yes, I have read the disclaimer above. I understand and accept the potential risks involved with gardening in or near the street.

Pr

03/17/2018

Please e-mail, fax, or mail this application to:

San Francisco Parks Alliance  
Attention: Street Parks Program  
1663 Mission St., Suite 320  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Email: [marissa@sfparksalliance.org](mailto:marissa@sfparksalliance.org)  
Fax: 415-703-0889  
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I, [REDACTED] read and agree to the terms outlined above.

[REDACTED] \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name Signature Date 03/17/2018

Harvey's Garden - A Watershed Garden  
Street Park Site Name

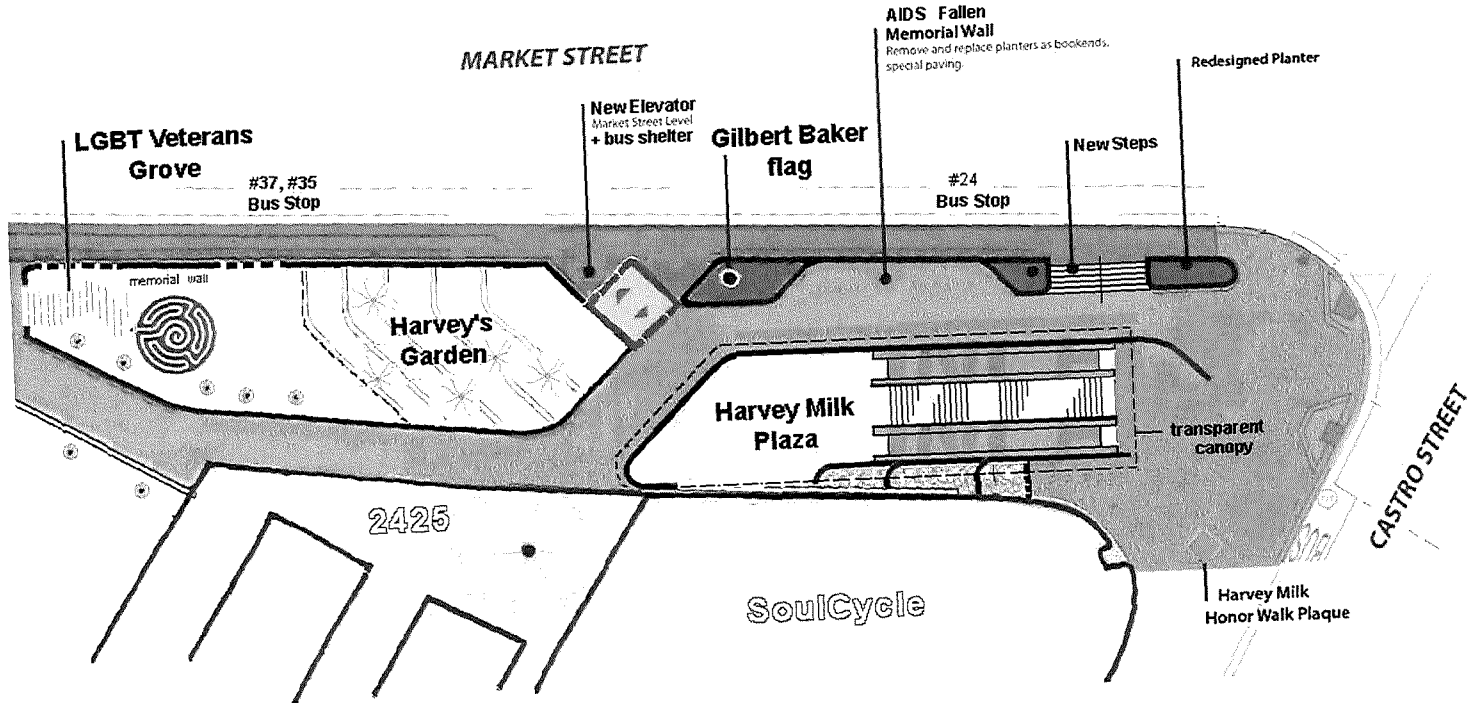
2401 Market St @ Castro (planter beds + terraces)  
Street Park Location (address or cross streets)

Please email, fax, or mail this agreement to:

San Francisco Parks Alliance  
Attention: Street Parks Program  
1663 Mission Street, Suite 320  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Email: [marissa@sfparksalliance.org](mailto:marissa@sfparksalliance.org)  
Fax: 415-703-0889  
Phone: 415-621-3260, ext. 101





## **Carroll, John (BOS)**

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**From:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2019 12:23 PM  
**To:** BOS-Supervisors; Carroll, John (BOS)  
**Subject:** FW: November 14 Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee Hearing, item 4 - Urban Canopy Management - public comment

**Categories:** 190451, 2019.11.14 - PSNS

**From:** Anastasia Glikshtern <aplikshtern@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 4:33 PM  
**To:** Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>  
**Cc:** Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>; Ronen, Hillary <hillary.ronen@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Yee, Norman (BOS) <norman.yee@sfgov.org>; Fewer, Sandra (BOS) <sandra.fewer@sfgov.org>; Brown, Vallie (BOS) <vallie.brown@sfgov.org>; Breed, Mayor London (MYR) <mayorlondonbreed@sfgov.org>  
**Subject:** November 14 Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee Hearing, item 4 - Urban Canopy Management - public comment

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

Dear Supervisor Mar,  
Dear committee members,

Trees are very important for carbon sequestration, pollution and noise reduction, as wind barriers & habitat for wildlife. They provide shade and improve health and well-being of all of us.

As you know, in 2016 an insane plan to cut down 18,500 mature trees (and uncounted small ones) has been adapted. It must be reviewed and the tree killing part must be eliminated.

The plan had no tree replacement in it.  
The plan's EIR was promising one-to-one tree replacement.  
Now the various City departments talk about 2:1 tree replanting.

It should be clear to anybody that number of trees planted vs. number of trees removed is meaningless. Biomass of the trees is critical for carbon sequestration, wind calming, noise reduction, shade and pollution abatement.

Two saplings might offset the removal of one large mature tree - after many years of growth - if they survive. Come to look at five little oak trees on Mount Davidson, planted in 2008 to offset the loss of 100 plus big eucalyptus and cypresses needlessly destroyed by water pipe project - to avoid the "native" plant area where the pipes should've been located.

Eleven years later (alive thanks to protection by eucalyptus forest) they are still tiny.

Most of San Francisco residents do not know about the Natural Resource Management Plan to use taxpayers money to kill our trees.

Many are terrified when told about it.

RPD has no system to track the number of trees removed each year - their size, species and location.

There is also no system to track the size, species, location and survival rate of the planted trees.

Given City's professed commitment to policies which reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally (as expressed in recent declaration of a climate change emergency) it is imperative that the tree killing is removed from NRMP, that the tree removals are only done for safety (or within necessary projects where such removals cannot be avoided), and that the data bases of removed and planted trees are created and made accessible to the public.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Glikshtern

BOS-11  
File No 190451

# Our Trees are Our Neighbors



**No More Deforestation!**

No More Exclusionary Acts!

Stop Ethnic Cleansing Now!

# SAVE OUR PLANET

When one looks deeply into the present situation in the world, two things stand out as particularly important: the danger of war and the acceleration of the Earth's ecological imbalance. There are, of course, many other problems: the economic debacle which affects many countries, especially in the West; the huge increases in the price of food, especially the staple diet of many millions; the huge, and growing, disparity in living standards between the rich and the poor.

All of these problems are important and require early resolution. The two first named must command the attention of all sensible men and governments for they present the greatest threat to man's well-being. Wars, large and small, should by now be unthinkable, but, sadly, this is not the case. Even a world which has known the folly and futility of war at its most terrible has still not relinquished, totally, that abomination. The governments are seduced into thinking that old ways will, after all, render up their coveted prize. The weapons of war, therefore, have become indispensable and a major trading asset. While the weapons are there they will be used. Small wars beget large wars as more countries become involved. Large nations fight by proxy through their allies and so prolong unimportant quarrels into war. This major danger must be abandoned by all nations. It threatens the very existence of men on Earth.

Apart from war, nothing so profoundly affects the future of all men as much as pollution. Some countries have recognised this fact and have taken some steps to limit pollution and global warming. Others, sometimes the chief polluters, deny the reality of global warming despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Daily, now, the climatic changes prove beyond doubt that the planet is sick and needs immediate and skilful care to re-establish equilibrium. Time is running out for men to halt the transformation which is being daily wrought on planet Earth. Every man, woman and child must play their part in the task. Time is, verily, running out. S.O.P.: Save Our Planet!



*SHARE INTERNATIONAL*

*Vol. 26, NO. 7 – SEPTEMBER 2007*

This article was dictated by a senior member of the Hierarchy of the Masters of Wisdom (to the late Benjamin Creme). This group of perfected individuals has guided and inspired humanity from behind the scenes for countless millennia. They are returning now to the everyday world to help humanity solve its most critical global problems, and inspire the creation of a new civilization based on sharing, social and economic justice, and global cooperation.

You can learn more at:

Share International USA – (510) 841-3738 – [www.Share-International.org](http://www.Share-International.org)

## SAVE Thousands of Trees on Mount Sutro Forest from Being Felled by UCSF



1. The fossil fuel companies and our government--with its institutions--aim to deflect responsibility from themselves. In order to thwart new laws and regulations, they convince Americans that the real change needs to be at the individual level, and that that should be adequate: That people need merely to recycle more, use screwy lightbulbs, or refuse plastic straws. We need to expose this fallacy--that it is our government, our corporations, and our institutions that need to stop deflecting responsibility. Public policies must be changed. Lifestyle changes are insufficient.



2. Forests that are destroyed can not be replaced. These are living ecosystems, and when these trees are killed, something invaluable is lost--in terms of what towering trees give us. We need the courage to speak up as they are our silent soldiers fighting on our side to save the planet. Truly our lives are dependent on theirs. Naomi Oreskes, the bestselling *New York Times* author of *Merchants of Doubt*, has identified fossil fuel usage and deforestation as the 2 major factors accelerating catastrophic climate change.



3. The communities that emit the least pollution are hit the hardest when it comes to the climate emergency. This is part of the reason why we need an objective discussion of what needs to be done--not leaving it to those with the least resources and the least resiliency to come up with solutions. We have a duty to help create policies that combat environmental racism.

"The Culture of creation is diversity, which is the basis of every nation and of every religion. Try to remove these differences and you only provoke destruction. You must respect the laws of diversity to maintain harmony or peace." [Maitreya, London ]



4. Trump has dismissed Nixon & Reagan's environmental policies, despite their having addressed particulate pollution, mitigated ozone & acid rain. The White House has dismantled regulations on methane emissions--with methane being 85 times more potent a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide and a product unleashed by fracking. Trump supports Brazil's development and decimation of the Amazon.



## SAVE Thousands of Trees on Mount Sutro Forest from Being Felled by UCSF



5. At present, UCSF intends to radically thin San Francisco's largest urban forest on Mount Sutro. They are fragmenting the forest by creating "open spaces" and native gardens which can only invite disease and dangerously desiccate the forest floor. (Presently Mt. Sutro's forest is damp all year long from the fog, which makes it impervious to fire.) By degrading Mount Sutro, UCSF prepares the Forest for development. In order to accomplish such a feat, the University has partnered with Nativists, who have repeatedly used the corporate-controlled media to

condition the Public to fear, if not hate, certain species of trees. Employing the same kind of bigoted tropes against Eucalyptus trees that have been used against Native Americans for centuries, Nativists hope we will fail to see the holes in their rhetoric, for they deny that their clearcutting agenda accelerates climate change. And while promoting the replacement of towering 125-year old trees with native shrubs and grasses, they aim to incite fear against forests themselves. Like many populist movements, they attempt to determine what species "belong here". And while they denounce certain species as being "dangerous" and "invasive", they ignore the fact that—at present—humans could be denounced as "invasive", as Humanity threatens all life on Earth!



6. Merely 100 companies are implicated in releasing 71% of global carbon emissions. They are endangering all life on the planet. As such, they need to be taxed, regulated and eventually closed down. We can boycott or diminish usage of fossil fuels, while embracing a future where green energy choices grow increasingly plentiful and accessible to all. Mount Sutro is our local version of the Amazon--will we permit thousands of its trees to be razed?

Let it be Known: These trees reside on public land and are part of our community. UCSF has plenty of space to install native gardens at Mission Bay, on the roof of Milberry Garage, or over its miles' of sidewalks. UCSF's buildings will never provide us with oxygen, nor sequester carbon dioxide. Please take a stand about our world's most pressing problems and help protect our largest urban forest from reckless development. Educate yourself at: [sfforest.org](http://sfforest.org).

# Next 18 months critical to addressing climate change crisis

“Do you remember the good old days when we had ‘12 years to save the planet’? Now it seems, there’s a growing consensus that the next 18 months will be critical in dealing with the global heating crisis, among other environmental challenges.” So begins a July 2019 article by BBC environment correspondent Matt McGrath.

The “12 years to save the planet” reference comes from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which said last year that in order to keep the increase in global temperatures below 1.5C this century compared to pre-industrial levels, emissions of carbon dioxide would have to be reduced by 45 per cent by 2030.

“But today, observers recognize that the decisive, political steps to enable the cuts in carbon to take place will have to happen before the end of next year,” the BBC article states.

One of the world’s top climate scientists spoke about this 2020 deadline back in 2017: “The climate math is brutally clear: While the world can’t be healed within the next few years, it may be fatally wounded by negligence until 2020,” said Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, founder and now director emeritus of the Potsdam Climate Institute.

The UK’s Prince Charles, a long-time environmentalist, agrees with this assessment. Speaking at a reception for Commonwealth foreign ministers in July 2019, he said: “I am firmly of the view that the next 18 months will decide our ability to keep climate change to survivable levels and to restore nature to the equilibrium we need for our survival.”

The Prince was referring to a series of critical UN meetings that are due to take place between now and the end of 2020.

Under the terms of the global climate agreement signed in Paris in December 2015, countries have promised to improve their carbon-cutting plans by the end of 2020. The first major gathering to address this issue will be the UN Climate Action Summit called by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, which will be held in New York on 23 September 2019. Guterres has said that he only wants countries to attend the sum-

mit if they can make significant offers to enhance their national carbon-reduction plans.

This summit will be followed by a conference of all parties to the Paris agreement, COP25, to be held in Santiago, Chile, in December 2019. And finally COP26, which takes place at the end of 2020 in the UK.

Prince Charles’ view that the next 18 months are critical is shared by some climate negotiators.

“Our group of small island developing states share Prince Charles’ sense of the profound urgency for ambitious climate action,” said ambassador Janine Felson from Belize, who is the chief strategist for the Alliance of Small Island States group in the UN.

“All at once we are witness to a collect-

ive convergence of public mobilization, worsening climatic impacts and dire scientific warnings that compel decisive climate leadership. Without question, 2020 is a hard deadline for that leadership to finally manifest itself.”

“Right now there’s nothing like enough understanding of, or commitment to, this among leading countries,” said Professor Michael Jacobs, from the University of Sheffield, a former climate adviser to Prime Minister Gordon Brown. “That’s why the UN Secretary General is holding a summit in September.” (Source: BBC)

## Climate Change and Land – IPCC’s new special report

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) approved *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in*



Consumers in rich nations could act immediately by reducing their consumption of intensively produced meat and dairy foods – products that have a huge environmental impact.

**In the words of a Master of Wisdom: "Apart from war, nothing so profoundly affects the future of all men as much as pollution. Some countries have recognised this fact and have taken some steps to limit pollution and global warming. Others, sometimes the chief polluters, deny the reality of global warming despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Daily, now, the climatic changes prove beyond doubt that the planet is sick and needs immediate and skilful care to re-establish equilibrium. Time is running out for men to halt the transformation which is being daily wrought on planet Earth. Every man, woman and child must play their part in the task. Time is, verily, running out. S.O.P. Save Our Planet!" (Source: 'S.O.P. — Save Our Planet!' by the Master —, through Benjamin Creme, 8 September 2012)**

*terrestrial ecosystems* at its 50th Session held on 2-7 August 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland. The approved Summary for Policymakers (SPM) was presented at a press conference on 8 August 2019.

Global heating is increasing droughts, soil erosion and wildfires while diminishing crop yields in the tropics and thawing permafrost near the poles, says the report.

It makes clear that humanity faces an urgent choice: continued destruction of forests and huge emissions from cattle and other intensive farming practices or immediate action to allow soils and forests to regenerate and store carbon. The report also suggests cutting meat consumption and food waste. Such policy decisions would also improve human health, cut poverty levels and help to tackle the huge losses of wildlife, the IPCC says. Burning of fossil fuels should also end to avoid "irreversible loss in land ecosystem services required for food, health and habitable settlements".

"This is a perfect storm," said Dave Reay, a professor at the University of Edinburgh who was an expert reviewer for the IPCC report. "Limited land, an expanding human population, and all wrapped in a suffocating blanket of climate emergency. Earth has never felt smaller, its natural ecosystems never under such direct threat."

Piers Forster, a professor at the University of Leeds, said: "This important report shows we need to substantially change the way we use our land to limit temperature change below 1.5C. In a nutshell we need less pasture [for livestock] and more trees."

Professor Jim Skea, from the IPPC, said

the land was already struggling and climate change was adding to its burdens. Almost three-quarters of ice-free land was now directly affected by human activity.

Poor land use is also behind almost a quarter of the planet's greenhouse gas emissions – the destruction of forests, huge cattle herds and overuse of chemical fertilisers being key factors. Emissions relating to fertilisers have risen ninefold since the early 1960s. Rising tem-

peratures are causing deserts to spread, particularly in Asia and Africa, and the Americas and Mediterranean are also at risk, the report says.

One of the starkest conclusions in the report is that soil, upon which humanity is entirely dependent, is being lost more than 100 times faster than it is being formed in ploughed areas; and lost 10 to 20 times faster even on fields that are not tilled. The report recommends strong action from governments and business, including ending deforestation and enabling new forests to grow, reforming farming subsidies, supporting small farmers and breeding more resilient crops. The problem is that many of those solutions would take decades to have an impact, the IPCC says.

Consumers in rich nations could act immediately by reducing their consumption of intensively produced meat and dairy foods – products that have a huge environmental impact.

"There is much more we could do in that space that we are not doing, partly because it is difficult," said Pete Smith, a professor at the University of Aberdeen and a senior IPCC author. (Source: unenvironment.org; guardian.com; ipcc.ch)

## Global effort to plant billions of trees

Planting more than 500 billion trees could remove about 25 per cent of existing carbon from the atmosphere, according to a new study published in the journal *Science*.

The study assessed how much new for-

est the Earth could support without encroaching on farmland or urban areas and came up with a figure of 0.9 billion hectares (2.22 billion acres), an area approximately the size of the US.

"Our study shows clearly that forest restoration is the best climate change solution available today and it provides hard evidence to justify investment," said senior study author Tom Crowther, a professor at the Swiss university ETH Zürich.

"If we act now, this could cut carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by up to 25 per cent, to levels last seen almost a century ago." The new trees would remove around 200 gigatonnes of carbon, or two-thirds of what humans have emitted into the atmosphere since the industrial revolution.

In terms of cost, Crowther said that "the most effective projects" do restoration at about 30 cents per tree, meaning that restoring a trillion trees would cost about \$300 billion – which makes tree restoration "by far the cheapest solution that has ever been proposed".

The researchers emphasized that tree planting was not a replacement for reducing greenhouse gas emissions or phasing out the use of fossil fuels. "None of this works without emissions cuts," Crowther told *Time* magazine.

Even if tree planting began today, it would take 50 to 100 years for the new trees to soak up 200 gigatonnes of carbon, he said to *The Guardian*. And, as *National Geographic* explained, the researchers found that potential tree-planting land could shrink by one-fifth by 2050 even if global temperature rise is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, as some tropical areas could grow too hot to support forests.

Even so, Crowther said tree planting was an important means of immediate climate action. It is "a climate change solution that doesn't require President Trump to immediately start believing in climate change, or scientists to come up with technological solutions to draw carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere," Crowther said. "It is available now, it is the cheapest one possible and every one of us can get involved." (Source: EcoWatch, BBC, *The Guardian*, UK; *Time*, *National Geographic*, USA; Common Dreams)

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## S.O.P. — Save Our Planet

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### Climate activists “greatest threat” to oil industry

The secretary-general of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has called the youth-led climate activist movement “perhaps the greatest threat” to the oil industry.

Mohammed Barkindo seemed to single out the ‘Fridays for Future’ climate strike movement begun by 16-year-old Swedish activist Greta Thunberg when he said that the children of some of his OPEC-headquarters colleagues in Vienna “are asking us about their future because ... they see their peers on the streets campaigning against this industry.”

Barkindo said that “unscientific” attacks on the oil industry by climate activists were “perhaps the greatest threat to our industry going forward”. “Thank you!” Greta Thunberg tweeted in response: “Our biggest compliment yet!” (Source: EcoWatch, Agence France-Presse)

### Assault on the Amazon

The far-right president of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro is sending a clear message that illegal logging in the Amazon may be carried out with impunity. Bolsonaro also dismisses as lies the findings of Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research (INPE), as well as denying that indigenous leaders have been killed defending the forest and their homes.

Deforestation of the Amazon rainforest increased by 278 per cent in July 2019 compared with July 2018, resulting in the destruction of 870 square miles (2,253 square kilometres) of vegetation, new satellite data from the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE) shows. That is an area about twice the size of the city of Los Angeles. And, while the forest still spans some 2.1 million square miles (5.5 million square km — just a little bit bigger than Mexico), the spike in tree loss is part of a dangerous trend. According to the Associated Press, this is the single biggest surge in rainforest destruction since INPE began monitoring deforestation with its current methodology in 2014.

This data comes courtesy of INPE’s satellite monitoring program, DETER (Detection of Deforestation in Real Time), which

launched in 2004 to help INPE scientists detect and prevent illegal deforestation in the Amazon. This comes in the midst of an ongoing feud between INPE scientists and President Jair Bolsonaro, a climate change sceptic who vowed on his campaign trail to open more of the Amazon to various mining, logging and agricultural interests, despite environmental protections on the land. (Source: livescience.com; newyorktimes.com; theguardian.com) •

### Working-class movements

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ing-class movements as well as some of the strategies that are being used to combat them. Hemalata points to the same trend of the disarticulation of production, that “Workers do not produce the entire product; often they produce just a part of the commodity”. She explains that “This means that the workers are not concentrated in one factory, where they can get organized. Rather, they are working on just a part of the commodity, spatially separated from fellow workers, and have less power because of this.”

Another major problem, she explains, is the use of migrant labor to create “social fissures” between the workers and surrounding communities. Often, workers from one state are loaded onto a bus to a factory elsewhere, where they have no ties to the community and often do not speak the same language. This trend is mirrored in the forced migration of those fleeing violence in Central America in search of safety and economic opportunity in the United States. Migrants who succeed in their passage to the United States are often blamed for the woes of the broader working class for “stealing jobs,” deflecting the blame from the capitalist class for keeping all wages low and for having created the unstable conditions in their home countries through imperialist interventions.

Despite the shared interest between the community and the workers and between divided sectors of the working class who are forced to accept low wages and often precarious conditions, these divisions often succeed in creating social fractures that reinforce the interests of the ruling class.

One strategy used by CITU to combat these social fractures is “to organize people in their residential areas and not just at the

places of production,” says Hemalata. In the south Indian state of Kerala, for example, the Left Democratic Front offers Malayalam language classes for the migrant workers, which “allows them to develop closer ties with people who live beside their places of work and in their neighborhoods. If you provide workers with the means to enter the society where they work, then the divides cannot be so easily exploited by management.”

The challenges posed by global capital require creativity in their solutions. We must rebuild the imagination of the working class and combat the capitalist narrative that has made it easier for us to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism. Before a new system can be born, its seeds must be planted and nurtured in the fissures of our current reality. We must build and popularize an ideology and culture that offer a solution other than hate and scapegoating to the woes experienced by the poor and dispossessed — and amplify the theories and strategies that exist among popular movements today. This requires confronting the consumer-driven culture and social isolation promoted by capitalism and building one that revives community and humanity, that centers the well-being of humanity over the accumulation of wealth at the hands of the few. The seeds of the future exist in the strategies of CITU in India; in the worker-cooperatives in Brazil; in the housing struggles in South Africa; and in countless other popular movements across the world. These are the wrenches that can halt the wheels of the well-oiled machine of capital. (Source: Common Dreams.org. Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License.) •

### Knock down the House

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powerful than the skilled stonewalling of typical politicians.

In 2018, women led the way to victory for House Democrats: 528 women ran for Congress, 42 joined Congress in 2019; they won more than 60 per cent of the seats that Democrats took, in what some termed the ‘Year of the Woman’. There are now 102 women in the House — the largest number in US history.

(Source: Jacobin, *Knock down the House*, Netflix; *New York Times*) •

# Do We Want Water?

Then we need  
forests!



When a tree  
breathes out,  
you breathe in.

Trees capture water for our soils. Their limbs, leaves, and roots sequester tons of carbon dioxide, removing it from our atmosphere. (Carbon Dioxide is dangerously trapping heat in our air and oceans. Such particulates, and reckless development, are leading us to the brink of extinction.)

## Water. Air. Forests. Inextricable.

Won't you help save an extant forest today?

# The curse of commercialization

by the Master —, through Benjamin Creme, 17 April 2009

If men are to save this planet from the results of global warming they must do infinitely more than is planned to limit carbon emissions, and in a shorter period of time than is generally accepted as necessary. Men have been slow to recognize the dangers, and even now many refuse to take the problems seriously. Such attitudes, there is no doubt, put in jeopardy the future of planet Earth. At most, men have ten to fifteen years in which to establish a balance before irreparable damage is done.

To achieve this goal, men must change dramatically the present way of life, and embrace simpler forms of living and working. Gone are the days in which men raped and ravaged the planet at will, without a thought for the generations still to come, neither seeing nor caring ought for the environment which has gradually and inevitably decayed.

Each year, and for many years, huge areas of ancient primal forest are cleared of life-giving trees for purely commercial benefits. Commercialization indeed bodes ill for humanity as it tightens its grip on the throats of men. Commercialization, says Maitreya, is more dangerous to men than the atomic bomb, and is showing its destructive power in the economic chaos which rules in the world today.

## Life-blood

How long will it take governments and their peoples to see this? How long till commercialization squeezes the life-blood out of humanity, and itself withers and dies?

More and more, the truth of these words is borne in on the minds of millions who now, suddenly, are

jobless and homeless and in despair.

This has produced a situation in which Maitreya can step forward into public work without infringing humanity's free will. Patiently has Maitreya waited many years for this time, sure in the knowledge that the events now taking place would, indeed, transpire. Commercialization has bared its claws and shown its power to harm. The complacency of millions is turning into hatred and distrust of commercialization and the old order of things. Men everywhere are at last ready for a new interpretation of the meaning and purpose of life, for sharing, justice and peace; for right relationship, brotherhood and greater happiness. They are ready, at last, for Maitreya's call.

## Imagine

Of course, not all men have undergone this change. There are many who imagine they can 'sit out' this 'recession' and rebuild their fortunes as before. The very rich and clever ones have lost nothing. The gap between themselves and others has simply widened in their favour. They fail to understand that this time is like none other. We have reached the end of the old order. Cosmic forces dictate the changes that must and will take place, otherwise life would flourish no more on planet Earth.

Those who are ready will quickly respond to Maitreya's Teaching as He puts into simple and eloquent words their heartfelt needs. Others will take longer to forgo that to which they have become accustomed, and for a time disagree. In time, millions around the world will see the need and the logic of the changes which alone will save the planet and its people.