

City and County of San Francisco

Recreation and Park Commission



Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Mark Buell, *President*
Allan Low, *Vice President*

Kat Anderson
Gloria Bonilla
Tom Harrison
Larry Mazzola, Jr.
Eric McDonnell

Philip A. Ginsburg, *General Manager*
Margaret A. McArthur, *Commission Liaison*

September 27, 2017

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

Dear Judge Jackson:

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the following is in reply to the 2016-17 Civil Grand Jury report, *Planning to Make Our Parks Even Better*. We would like to thank the members of the Civil Grand Jury for their interest in the City's parks and their efforts to improve their planning, maintenance, and operations.

Well-maintained parks, enriching recreational activities, and the protection and enhancement of San Francisco's natural resources are vital for maintaining and improving the quality of life in our neighborhoods. On June 7, 2016, San Francisco voters approved Proposition B, a Charter amendment that created a General Fund baseline for the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) and updated and expanded the Department's planning and equity requirements. Expanded equity metrics were reviewed and approved by the Recreation and Park Commission in October, 2016. The Recreation and Park Commission subsequently approved the Department's five-year strategic plan update in November 2016. The plan outlines the Department's mission, vision, and values and identifies five strategies, each with three or four objectives and multiple initiatives designed to implement the Department's strategic vision. The Commission also approved RPD's capital and operational plans in December 2016 and January 2017, respectively. The Department, in close collaboration with the Mayor's Office, continues to work diligently on delivering the ambitious strategies, objectives, and initiatives outlined in these documents.

The Civil Grand Jury's report noted that significant progress has been achieved in the City's parks system over the past five years. The report primarily focused on assessing the progress RPD has made in strengthening its Strategic, Operational, and Capital planning processes. The report also investigated the extent to which delayed preventative maintenance is a factor in the condition of the City's parks. The signatory to this letter will incorporate these findings into the collaborative working relationship.

A detailed response from the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission to the Civil Grand Jury's findings and recommendations are attached.

Each signatory prepared its own responses and is able to respond to questions related to its respective part of the report.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this Civil Grand Jury report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Buell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark Buell, President
Recreation and Park Commission

2016-17 Civil Grand Jury
 PLANNING TO MAKE OUR PARKS EVEN BETTER: RESPONSES TO CGJ FINDINGS

CGJ Year	Report Title	#	Findings	Respondent assigned by CGJ	2017 Responses (Agree/Disagree)	2017 Response Text
2016-17	PLANNING TO MAKE OUR PARKS EVEN BETTER	F6	Rec & Parks continues to operate under the 2011 Acquisition Policy which was found by the 2013 BLA Report to be inconsistent with Park Code.	Recreation and Park Commission	disagree with it, partially (explanation in next column)	The current Rec Park Acquisition Policy is not identical to the acquisition goals laid out in the Park Code, however, they are not necessarily in conflict either. The Park Code Acquisition goals are not meant to be solely and exclusively applied to acquisitions, but as required parts of the review of a property. In most cases, the issues identified in the Park Code are actively discussed as part of the acquisition review process, and addressed in final recommendations to the Commission and BOS.

2016-17 Civil Grand Jury
 PLANNING TO MAKE OUR PARKS EVEN BETTER: RESPONSES TO CGJ RECOMMENDATIONS

CGJ Year	Report Title	#	Recommendations	Respondent assigned by CGJ	2017 Responses (implementation)	2017 Response Text
2016-17	PLANNING TO MAKE OUR PARKS EVEN BETTER	R6	By January 2018, the Recreation and Park Commission should review and, as needed, update its Acquisition Policy.	Recreation and Park Commission	The recommendation has not been, but will be, implemented in the future (timeframe for implementation noted in next column)	The department has updated our acquisitions policy, and it was approved by the Commission and adopted in 2011. Our Acquisitions page http://sfrecpark.org/park-improvements/acquisitions-future-park-sites/ and, our Policy is here: http://sfrecpark.org/wp-content/uploads/Acquisition_Policy_20114.pdf .