

From: [Jalipa, Brent \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: 180836 Hearing (November 13)
Date: Thursday, November 8, 2018 12:08:19 PM
Attachments: [ATT00001.htm](#)
[WSP Attachment E - Letters of Support.pdf](#)
[ATT00002.htm](#)

Sent from my B-Phone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ng, Beverly (REC)" <beverly.ng@sfgov.org>
Date: November 8, 2018 at 12:01:44 PM PST
To: "Jalipa, Brent (BOS)" <brent.jalipa@sfgov.org>
Subject: 180836 Hearing (November 13)

Hi Brent,

Hope you are well.

[180836](#) HEARING - Appeal of Determination of Exemption From Environmental Review - Washington Square Water Conservation Project. Peskin excused. Sup. Fewer motion to continue to November 13. (10/30/18)

This item is scheduled to be heard on November 13th before the full board. Attached are letters of support we wanted to submit for the full board. Let me know if that is possible and what else might be needed.

Many thanks,

Beverly

Beverly Ng

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs

San Francisco Recreation and Park Department
City & County of San Francisco
McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park
501 Stanyan Street | San Francisco, CA | 94117
E-mail: Beverly.Ng@sfgov.org
Direct: (415) 831-6852

Friends of Washington Square

July 19, 2018

Recreation and Park Commissioners
McLaren Lodge
501 Stanyan Street
San Francisco, CA
94117



Attn: Margaret Mcarthur, Secretary
Levi Conover, Project Manager

RE: Washington Square Water Conservation Project

Honorable Commissioners:

For several years, Friends of Washington Square has pursued irrigation, pavement and sub-drainage upgrades in historic Washington Square. These infrastructure elements have not had substantial improvements since they were installed in 1957.

Recent PUC audits have reported approximately two million gallons of water are wasted each year. Poor sub-drainage causes large areas of the Square to be boggy and excluded from public use. The pavement has been patched and repeatedly repaired over the past decades, resulting in uneven surfaces, causing potential hazards, and impediments to the handicapped.

At last, in cooperation with Friends, the Department, the PUC and our District Supervisor we have secured the necessary funding to address these long over due upgrades. Improvements not only in water conservation, but expanding and enhancing the park user experience. The Square is the only major open space in a highly dense, culturally diverse neighborhood. Every inch of the Square is needed to accommodate use demands.

Although there are few downsides to these proposed improvements, they will necessitate the closure of the Square for some time. The closure is necessary not only to accommodate the project's scope, but for public safety and economy of costs. The closure will have an added opportunity: necessary tree maintenance.

Any delay or 'phasing' of the project's elements would only, in the long run, extend closure of the Square.

The Department has made great efforts to reduce the closure period, accommodate the project's potential impact on the surrounding area, the neighborhood at large, park users and adjacent businesses.

Friends of Washington Square strongly support the need for the proposed upgrades, and encourage the Commission's support for the Department's recommendations on the project's implementation.

Delays will only increase the closure time overall, resulting in the unnecessary loss of nearly 5,000 gallons of precious water each day the project is delayed.

Friends of Washington Square and North Beach residents deserve these long over due improvements to their "Living Room." Friends' members look forward to attending the August Commission meetings on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Friends of Washington Square
POB 330241
San Francisco, CA
94133

(415) 956.1069



North Beach Neighbors
P.O. Box 330115
San Francisco, CA 94133
northbeachneighbors.org

July 14, 2018

TO: San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department, Supervisor Aaron Peskin

RE: Washington Square Water Conservation Project

North Beach Neighbors is a San Francisco non-profit organization comprised of North Beach residents and businesses. Since 1981, we have advocated on behalf of neighbors to create a vibrant, inclusive neighborhood.

With these goals in mind, we write to you today to express our support for the upcoming Washington Square Water Conservation Project.

We first learned of the project in February 2018 from a Rec & Park presentation at our February Community Meeting. The planning phase of the project was still very much in its infancy at that time, and we expressed concerns in a letter dated February 28, 2018 that [can be viewed here](#). Since that time, we have been encouraged by the commitment that Rec & Park has showed to alleviate concerns, including:

- They have made themselves available in person, by phone, and over email to discuss the project in a timely manner.
- They have adopted many of our concerns and placed them into a Survey distributed to the neighborhood.
- They worked to expand the scope of the project to replacing pathways and meeting ADA compliance.
- They have planned a Community Meeting on July 25th for further engagement.
- They have accelerated the project timeline to be complete in 6 months rather than 1 year.
- They have begun outreach to Department of Homelessness to approach those who shelter in the park with compassion and support.

No matter how well planned or executed, we understand the park closure will bring significant inconvenience to the neighborhood. Still, alternatives such as phased closures that appeared attractive at first would only result in longer closures and increased costs.

Our organization commits to be a partner in the continued efforts to ensure this is a project that is carried out with care for those who rely on the park, meets environmental goals of water savings, and restores the open space at the center of our beloved neighborhood.

Daniel J. Sauter

Danny Sauter

North Beach Neighbors
President



July 21, 2018

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President Mark Buell

San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission

McLaren Lodge

501 Stanyan Street

San Francisco, CA 94117

Re: Support for Washington Square Water Conservation Project

Dear President Buell and Recreation and Park Commissioners,

We are writing to support the proposed water conservation project and upgrades to Washington Square. We hope that this project, now funded, will proceed to completion without further delay.

Washington Square lies just outside the boundaries of *Russian Hill Neighbors (RHN)*, but it is nonetheless an important public open space amenity for our residents and the over 500 households that comprise the active membership of RHN.

This is a very important infrastructure project with long-term benefits to the dense and culturally diverse neighborhoods that surround the Square. Although the project will necessitate the closure of Washington Square for some time, this seems to be the safest and, in the end, most efficient and feasible plan.

We are grateful to the Friends of Washington Square, the Department of Recreation and Park, the PUC, Supervisor Peskin and all who have worked to make this project possible. We look forward to the many improvements in water conservation, safety and open space enjoyment that will result.

Thank you for your support of this project.

Very truly yours,

Carol Ann Rogers, President

carolannrogers@prodigy.net

415-902-3980

cc: Supervisor Aaron Peskin, District 3
Levi Conover, Project Manager
Margaret Mcarthur, Secretary

May 16, 2018

San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: Letter of Support for Washington Square's Water Conservation Project

Dear Commissioners:

The San Francisco Parks Alliance (SFPA) urges you to support the Recreation & Parks Department's Washington Square Water Conservation Project.

As a San Francisco organization dedicated to improving the City's parks, open spaces, and public realm, we encourage City projects, such as the Water Conservation Project, that are dedicated to conserving valuable water resources through the replacement of antiquated irrigation systems with newer, more efficient systems. It is estimated that the project will cut the park's water use from the existing 3 million gallons per year to 1 million gallons per year.

Thank you for your consideration, I hope you can join the citizens of San Francisco in support of this important project!

Sincerely,



Drew Becher
CEO
San Francisco Parks Alliance