

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Breed, Mayor London \(MYR\)](#); [SFhousingInfo](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Senior Units on Laguna Honda Open Space Reserve
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To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to comment on the rumored proposed plans regarding the proposed massive affordable senior units project at Laguna Honda Hospital Open Space Reserve. We and some of our neighbors in the Midtown Terrace Neighborhood are concerned about a number of issues, including the following:

- The neighbors surrounding the proposed site have not received any formal notification of the proposed plans.**
- We, in fact, were assured by Michael Lane, the project public relations contact for the redevelopment of the Laguna Honda Hospital, that the**

parking lot in question was a temporary measure to accommodate construction crews and overflow employees, and that the space would be returned to its natural environment as soon as the construction project was completed. We have been waiting a decade for that to happen.

- There have been no public meetings or Environmental Impact Report process or any comment period to begin to address the needless significant environmental impacts to the area. This project does not fit our community in many conceivable ways.
- Over the past ten years the surrounding neighborhoods of Forest Knolls, Twin Peaks, and Midtown Terrace have endured the cumulative loss of over a thousand trees with the rebuilding and retrofitting projects for Laguna Honda Hospital, Juvenile Justice Hall, five PUC pump stations, Midtown Terrace and Twin Peaks reservoirs, Midtown Terrace Playground, UCSF's Aldea Residences, Sutro Tower, and Clarendon School. The cumulative loss in our neighborhoods has not been factored into any one of these projects, including this current proposal.
- Loss of trees, their root systems and foliage, and forest and grassland ecosystems, and lack of effective stewardship have significantly compromised the area's natural habitats, stabilization, exposed wind impact, fire safety, erosion, noise control, and green space.
- There are a number of bird and animal species inhabiting the forest and grassland environments, and their already dwindling habitats and food will be diminished. One just needs to wander the trails to see beautiful red-tailed hawks and hear the songbirds and owls.
- In addition, displaced rodents, raccoons and skunks will seek alternate nesting and food sources in our neighborhood backyards and basements. This phenomenon has occurred on Dellbrook with the diminished forest around the Laguna Honda Hospital rebuild, and at UCSF with the construction of the Stem Cell facility on Medical Center Way.
- Loss of trees, foliage and grasslands diminish air quality: for example, because blue gum around this area grow fast, they can sequester more carbon than most trees, making them a valuable tool against global warming.
- Loss of trees and foliage will increase city sound and traffic noises for our neighborhoods. This has been significant already with the loss of trees around the Laguna Honda Hospital rebuild.
- Hillsides, grasslands, and eucalyptus trees are very effective wind breaks. Loss of these habitats will decrease the current wind break afforded to neighbors on the crest of the windy hills.

- The aesthetic beauty of the green space will be significantly impacted by much higher rising buildings than the surrounding neighborhood's two-story structures, more streets crossing the current landscape, more traffic funneling into local congested streets, all compounding the quality of life.
- In fact, what is done with this project, governed by "today's aesthetic taste," will impact the Laguna Honda green space reserve for another one hundred years. As an example, the cutback from the Laguna Honda Hospital construction along Clarendon, Olympia, Dellbrook, and Laguna Honda and scant replanting have altered the vista for neighbors from a natural, pleasing, forested screen to a view of high-rise buildings, chain-link fencing, garbage huts, car parks, shadowed space, and denser housing. Creating the proposed 250 apartments is an enormous project totally out of scale with the surrounding neighborhoods.
- This proposed project would transform the quiet surrounding neighborhoods with more multi-years of construction, congestion, noise, and pollution.
- All of this has led the neighbors to question the motivation of this sudden relocation and whether City Hall views our neighborhood as second-class citizens who don't vote (we do!) over the Forest Hill Neighborhood, which successfully "killed" building this project in their backyard on Laguna Honda Boulevard next to the Forest Hill Christian Church.

We urge you to evaluate less stringent destruction of the Laguna Honda Open Space Reserve, and reassess plans for a beneficial, less dense, more natural habitat. The Laguna Honda Open Space Reserve is a wonderful resource for San Francisco, and an excellent opportunity to preserve some unique acreage and more humanely and effectively manage a treasured San Francisco resource. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Timothy Poirier

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