

Office of the Mayor
City & County of San Francisco



Gavin Newsom

April 1, 2009

The Honorable Fran Pavley
Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 792 Leno – Hunters Point Shipyard and Candlestick Point Public Trust and Park Exchange Legislation

Dear Senator Pavley,

As Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of SB 792 by Senator Mark Leno. The city's plan to revitalize the former Hunters Point naval shipyard and Candlestick Point is one of the most important development projects in the city's modern history because of both its scale and the scope of public benefits that it will deliver to a grossly underserved community. SB 792 will help realize the creation of thousands of affordable homes, millions of square feet of desperately needed job-generating commercial and retail space, and hundreds of acres of new and restored public open space and recreation areas by authorizing key land and public trust exchanges with the state.

Plans for the Hunters Point shipyard and Candlestick Point have already been endorsed by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and were overwhelmingly adopted by San Francisco voters in June 2008. The city's project proposes to invest tens of millions of private dollars to improve and restore the Candlestick Point State Recreation Area and create new parks and recreation areas within the Hunters Point shipyard, which includes providing continuous waterfront access for public use, providing unparalleled public views of the San Francisco Bay, and completing the Bay Trail to create an uninterrupted park system along the city's southeastern waterfront. These investments by the city will transform the land into an open space rich in habitat value – an amenity that the residents of southeastern San Francisco need and deserve - as well as create a regional and statewide public open space asset. In addition to paying for these capital improvements, the city has also proposed to provide the State Department of Parks and Recreation with a steady source of funding for operations and maintenance of the park.

By utilizing a true public-private partnership structure, this bill will cause tens of millions of dollars of public open space investment to state park lands and public trust lands, at no cost to the state or the city's general fund, providing a significant benefit to the state as well as to the citizens of San Francisco. Thank you for your favorable consideration of SB 792.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom
Mayor

Good to see you
in DC -
next. H