

August 17, 2009

Mr. Fred Pollack
Van Meter Williams Pollack
18 de Boom Street
San Francisco, CA 94107

RE: Expansion of Texas Street, Rebuild Potrero Project

Dear Mr. Pollack:

Texas Street, starting at 25th Street on Potrero Hill, is a two block dead end path, barely wide enough for a vehicle. The path goes through a rare remnant serpentine grassland, home to over twenty species of native plants, including the state grass, purple needlegrass, which has a life span exceeding 200 years, and the state flower, California poppy. Serpentine is the state rock and the path contains natural rock gardens that are refuges for native plants. Because of serpentine's unusual geological and chemical nature, many of California's rare plants survive on serpentine. Several locally rare plants, including *Gilia clivorum* and *Microseris douglasii*, are found in the Texas Street area. A plant list is attached.

The Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) strongly recommends that any future plans avoid disruption to the Texas Street area. Widening Texas Street to the 80 foot width that is standard for Potrero Hill, would destroy the habitat. This is the only alternative given in the "Rebuild Potrero" powerpoint presentation on the web, even though CNPS member and Potrero Hill resident Ralph Hunter has presented alternatives to developers in workshops, letters and walking tours. Leaving Texas Street as it is and making Missouri Street the north-south through street in the eastern part of the project area, or making a curved parkway along the eastern part of the area, would make it possible to preserve the natural habitat. This would also avoid the expense and controversy encountered by the developer at Candlestick Point of moving large amounts of serpentine soil possibly containing asbestos dust.

Potrero Hill has limited parks and open space. With redevelopment, the population of Potrero Terrace/Annex will double, requiring even more open space. We urge you to give the Texas Street path area serious consideration in ongoing planning in the areas of open space and transportation routing. It is a natural treasure that should be preserved.

Sincerely,

Jake Sigg, Conservation Chair
Bd. of Directors, Yerba Buena Chapter, California Native Plant Society

Margo Bors, Potrero Hill Resident
Bd. of Directors, Yerba Buena Chapter, California Native Plant Society