

Dear BCNA Members:

We want to update you on two projects we have been working on to protect the quality of life of our neighborhood. Both projects have been in the news lately: The Mayor's Family Zoning Plan and the future of the Vaillancourt Fountain.

Family Zoning Plan. You have undoubtedly heard the far-reaching Family Zoning Plan was approved. That Plan authorizes increased heights and density for housing across the northern and western parts of the City. Our concern has been the Plan threatened to damage the unique ambience and fabric of the northern Embarcadero Promenade – a beloved walk for thousands of residents and visitors. Consequently, we engaged with the appropriate offices during the legislative process. Our focus was on the area immediately north of Bay Street, a surprise late addition to the proposed Plan. Following our targeted efforts, three key blocks bordering the Embarcadero between Bay Street and Pier 39 were removed entirely from the Plan. While ample capacity exists for new housing under the Plan, this change helps preserve the sense of freedom for people enjoying a sunny stroll along the Embarcadero – a stroll past historic piers, attractions, and views of the cityscape gently sloping away from the waterfront.

The Vaillancourt Fountain. As many of you already know from your attendance at the two community meetings held in the Embarcadero Center, the Department of Recreation and Parks (DRP) and the private sector BXP have joined to propose a renovation of the Embarcadero Plaza and Sue Bierman Park. However, the future of Vaillancourt Fountain has been central to the plans for the renovation. BCNA supplied comment letters on the issue to DRP, the Arts Commission and the Board of Supervisors (BOS), and Board members spoke at the public hearings held by the Arts Commission and the BOS. The thrust of our comments was that while at the time of its construction, the Fountain was an inspired choice to provide an artistic counterpoint to the Embarcadero Freeway, the Freeway is long gone, and the Fountain has fallen into such disrepair and deterioration that it must now be surrounded by

extensive fencing to prevent it from being a severe safety and environmental hazard. Our conclusion was that requiring the continued existence of an artwork of which there cannot practically or safely be any real appreciation serves no one, particularly if it causes the loss of the much-needed renovation of the Park and the Plaza. The Board of Supervisors agreed, and by a 10-1 vote permitted the dismantling and removal of the Fountain

As we begin the year 2026, we send our best wishes to you and your families for a happy and healthy year.

BCNA Board of Directors