

West of Twin Peaks Central Council

P. O. Box 27112 • San Francisco, CA 94127
Since 1936

June 28, 2006

The Honorable Chris Daly
Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

RE: Item 8. No. 060697 Fee Increases Planning Department

Dear Supervisor Daly:

On Monday, June 26, 2006 the West of Twin Peaks Council took a vote to unanimously oppose the Planning Department doubling of fee increases calendared at your committee today. Environmental applications and fees for negative declarations addendums and categorical exemptions are proposed for significant increases, make the option to file them for most neighborhood associations not viable.

Additionally, Planning Commission and variance hearings are increased substantially, The Discretionary Review surcharge proposed is a further obstacle, and we believe is intended to discourage neighbors from exercising their rights under the planning code.

Appeal costs will be raised exorbitantly on both negative declarations and appeals of environmental determinations to the Board of Supervisors.

In conclusion, the fee increases are so expansive as to dissuade or make impossible the ability of property owners and neighbors to present their concerns on development issues in their neighborhoods. Given the widely publicized policies of the City to increase housing substantially in the next five years, the West of Twin Peaks Central Council asks the Board of Supervisors to reject the significant increase in fees and keep the process as open as possible.

Sincerely,

David Bisho
President

CC: Board of Supervisors
Mayor Newsom
Planning Commissioners

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Balboa Terrace • Forest Hill • Forest Knolls
Greater West Portal • Ingleside Terraces • Lakeshore Acres • Lakeside Property Owners • Merced Manor
Midtown Terrace • Miraloma Park • Monterey Heights • PinelakePark St. Francis Homes • Sherwood Forest
Twin Peaks Improvement • Westwood Highlands • Westwood Park**