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12 November 2007

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Budget & Finance Committee

Board of Supervisors

1 Dr Carlton Goodlett Place

San Francisco CA 94102

Re: File #071533 [Issuance and Sale of Tax-Exempt Bonds - San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association]

Item #2 on Budget & Finance Committee Agenda, 13 November 2007

Item #37 on Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting Agenda, 13 November 2007

Supervisor Peskin,

At its November 12 meeting CSFN Land Use & Housing Committee members voted to respectfully suggest that the Budget & Finance Committee may wish to get an opinion from its counsel as to the legality of any action taken to benefit a group which is directly regulated by the California Political Reform Act, the San Francisco Campaign Finance Reform Ordinance, and one that may require regulation by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance.

Previously, the City has acted in support of institutions such as St. Mark's for the preservation of its historic church and the French American School in support of education. But these institutions are not politically active as is SPUR: they do not participate in ballot initiatives, nor do they lobby the City government in support of legislative or administrative action.

It may be that the State would challenge any City action in support of a group so politically active as SPUR — especially one where there are questions regarding responsibilities to register as a lobbyist.

The rush to enact this proposal, and its timing over a holiday weekend, might also attract unfavorable attention by the State.

We respectfully suggest that the Committee might find it helpful to postpone action and refer the matter to the City Attorney for clarification of the issues we raise here today.

We also respectfully request that you refer this matter to be heard at a Regular Meeting of the BOS Budget & Finance Committee to give the interested public an opportunity to weigh in.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Judith Berkowitz
President

Cc: Budget & Finance Committee members: Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Bevan Dufty
Supervisors Michela Alioto-Pier, Carmen Chu, Chris Daly, Sean Elsbernd, Sophie Maxwell,
Jake McGoldrick, Ross Mirkarimi, Gerardo Sandoval
Dennis Herrera, City Attorney
Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board
Victor Young, Budget & Finance Committee Clerk

Barbary Coast Neighborhood Assn
Bayview/Hunters Point
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Buena Vista Neighborhood Assn
Cathedral Hill Neighbors Assn
Cayuga Improvement Assn
Cole Valley Improvement Assn
Cow Hollow Assn
Diamond Heights Community Assn
Dolores Heights Improvement Club
East Mission Improvement Assn
Ewing Terrace Neighborhood Assn
Excelsior District Improvement Assn
Fair Oaks Community Coalition
Forest Knolls Neighborhood Assn
Francisco Heights Civic Assn
Golden Gate Heights Nghbrd Assn
Greater West Portal Nghbrd Assn
Haight Ashbury Improvement Assn
Inner Sunset Action Committee
Jordan Park Improvement Assn
Laurel Heights Improvement Assn
Lincoln Park Homeowners Assn
Marina Civic Improvement &
Property Owners Assn
Miraloma Park Improvement Club
Mission Creek Harbor Assn
New Mission Terrace Improvement Assn
North Beach Neighbors
North Park Neighbors
Oceanview, Merced Heights,
Ingleside — Neighbors in Action
Outer Mission Residents Assn
Pacific Heights Residents Assn
Panhandle Residents Organization/
Stanyan-Fulton
Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn
Richmond Community Assn
Rincon Point Neighborhood Assn
Russian Hill Improvement Assn
Russian Hill Neighbors
Sunset Heights Assn of
Responsible People
Sunset-Parkside Education &
Action Committee
Telegraph Hill Dwellers
Twin Peaks Council & Open
Space Conservancy
Twin Peaks Improvement Assn
West Presidio Neighborhood Assn