From: Kathleen Hallinan
“Save Jefferson Street Trees Coalition”, “Save Taiji Japan Cove Dolphins”
May 6, 2014
Cc: Board of Supervisors, Mayor Lee

To:

City and County of San Francisco
Regular Meeting Notice and Agenda for the
Urban Forestry Council
Planning and Policy Committee

Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 4:00 p.m.
Offices of the San Francisco Planning Department
1650 Mission Street, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Committee Members: Members Sullivan (Chair), Flanagan, Leffingwell, Ginsburg/Alvarez
/Wayne and Swae

SF City and County Government Policies and Funding of NAP
equivalent to :
“San Francisco Fiddling While Earth Burns”

“Nobody on this planet is going to be untouched by the impacts of climate change”
Rajendra Pachauri  Chairman, IPCC

“....The rich are going to have to think about climate change. We're seeing that in
the UK, with the floods we had a few months ago, and the storms we had in the US and
the drought in California......” UN Report

‘The race is on, it’s time to lead’, UN chief tells Abu Dhabi climate change event
Dear Urban Forestry Commissioners: SF Board Supervisors : Mayor Lee: May 6, 2014

From: The atlantic.com April1, 2014-
“...The United Nations' latest report on climate change contains plenty of dire warnings about the adverse impact "human interference with the climate system" is having on everything from sea levels to crop yields to violent conflicts. But the primary message of the study...... the subtext appears to be this: Climate change is happening and will continue to happen for the foreseeable future. As a result, we need to adapt to a warming planet—to minimize the risks and maximize the benefits associated with increasing temperatures—rather than focusing solely on curbing warming in the first place. And it's businesses and local governments, rather than the international community, that can lead the way....”

From: http://www.thewire.com/politics/2014/03/climate-change-more-violence-less-food-and-embarrassment-for-political-leaders/359902/

“A bleak report released by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the fifth in a series, makes several things clear: climate change is well underway, it will affect food supplies and global stability, and politicians — particularly American ones — should be embarrassed at their inaction”

“The New York Times as the best summary "...ice caps are melting, sea ice in the Arctic is collapsing, water supplies are coming under stress, heat waves and heavy rains are intensifying, coral reefs are dying, and fish and many other creatures are migrating toward the poles or in some cases going extinct." Also: crop growing patterns are being disrupted, threatening the food supply. Oceans are rising, thanks to warmer sea temperatures and melting ice. They're growing more acidic thanks to increased CO$_2$ absorption, which can dissolve the shells of shellfish. The thawing permafrost means more organic material is decomposing, releasing even more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere…”

“The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report is its fifth. The first came out in 1990; a second, reflecting updated science, in 1995. Another in 2001, another in 2007. The most recent iteration is simply the most bleak, the most updated predictions of how bad it will get. Will this be the one that prompts the United States Congress to move to action, to change our country's policies to try and stay on that lower emissions path while using our international power to change the behavior of other countries? No. It probably will not. It's always easier to shell out money for a disaster that has already happened...."
“The UN's New Focus: Surviving, Not Stopping, Climate Change”

“....Second, preparing for the worst actually presents major opportunities for the private sector and local governments. In its report this week, the IPCC is indeed calling for action—but not in the form of grand international declarations or promises. "Among the many actors and roles associated with successful adaptation, the evidence increasingly suggests two to be critical to progress; namely those associated with local government and those with the private sector," the report states. The implicit message: Citizens should stop waiting for world leaders to legislate climate change away—because that can't be done. Instead, individuals and communities need to show entrepreneurial initiative and figure out how best to survive in an increasingly volatile climate......”

“...A report released in Stockholm in September found a certainty of 95 percent or greater that humans were the main cause of global warming, and a report released in Yokohama two weeks ago said profound effects were already being felt around the world, and were likely to get much worse..

“....In essence, the committee described money spent fighting climate change as a form of insurance against the most severe potential consequences. “It is up to the public and up to decision makers to decide if it is affordable or not," Dr. Edenhofer said.

The report was quickly welcomed in Washington, where President Obama’s Science Adviser, John P. Holdren, said the report showed that “the longer society waits to implement strong measures to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the more costly and difficult it will become to limit climate change to less than catastrophic levels.”

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MY COMMENT

When I started the campaign to save the 21 trees on Jefferson Street the 2nd busiest tourist street in California - 2nd to Disneyland and 7th busiest in the world / tourist concentrations - Jefferson Street - Fisherman’s Wharf. The response from most supporters was how “beautiful” the trees are. In my plea I focused on the crucial job older trees accomplish IN the environment cleaning the air and particulates for us. In the end DPW saved the trees to the largest part due to
factors of climate change and importance of preserving each green mass in fighting pollution and offsetting climate change. That was 2012, in 2014 California finds itself in record drought conditions and the future looks to be worse for Ca.

I became aware of the Natural Areas Program through attending several meetings - one at UCSF Parnassus, the other at UCSF Mission Bay - a Community Advisory Committee. I and my family also personally walked both Mt Sutro and Mt Davidson on several occasions to see for ourselves the Native Areas and the “wrong forests” the NAP plan on removing and redesigning.

The Natural Areas proponents cite their work on their NAP goals throughout SF City and County Green Areas that go back “18-22” years and yet no where and at no time through the 5 -6 hours of meetings I sat through did any of the NAP leaders or supporters ever speak the words “CLIMATE CHANGE”.

If San Francisco has and is funneling millions and millions and millions and millions of San Francisco City and County government dollars of funding to the NAP, in essence giving NATURAL AREAS PROGRAMS the front priority voice in managing Green resources in San Francisco - and the NAP stated goal is to eradicate the “wrong forests” of San Francisco and replace those with their chosen Native plants and all along use herbicides all over San Francisco forests and parks to eradicate any green masses that sprout up that are not in their Native Plants Program DESIGN. That is counter productive policy and funding and San Francisco is liable for going the wrong direction towards offsetting climate change dangers.

San Francisco City and County Government continued policy in promoting and funding NAP’s agendas of deforestation and herbicides plainly and clearly is counter constructive in terms of all the quotes and references to the global crisis issues of “climate change” and the roles local governments internationally must play in leading and preserving what green strips and areas and trees San Francisco does have. Why is SF Gov funding clear cutting forests, and green lighting and funding herbicides all over San Francisco’s green parks and forests?

Today and going forward critically speaking the funds and policies of the City and County Government of San Francisco must 100% go towards fighting “Climate Change” not funding and promoting policies of clear cutting SF forests trees and parks and applying wholesale herbicides throughout SF - - The City and County of San Francisco must use its resources to lead the way globally to SAVING trees and forests and instituting GREEN POLICIES OF SUSTAINEABLE PERMACULTURE -- In San Francisco -- not destroying forests and trees to serve and fund policies that seems frighteningly unaware of Climate Change Impacts forthcoming.

Thank You All sincerely, Kathleen Hallinan