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Fuad Sweiss, Deputy Director and City Engineer

August 26, 2014

The Honorable Cynthia Ming-mei Lee
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: 2013-2014 Civil Grand Jury Report, *The Port of San Francisco: Caught between Public Trust and Private Dollars.*

Dear Judge Lee:

On behalf of the City and County of San Francisco Department of Public Works, please accept this response to the above referenced Grand Jury report's findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS:

Finding 9:

The Port does not have an official policy governing the process for proposed development projects. Many projects are moved ahead with minimal community input, often in the form of a quick review by the CAC and Planning Department then forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for a final approval. The Pier 70 Master Plan was developed with significant community outreach to both the general public and affected neighborhood associations. The Plan represents a balance of community and the requirement of the developer to obtain a reasonable return on investment.

DEPARTMENT RESPONSE: *We agree with part of this finding. We agree that the Pier 70 Master Plan was developed with significant community outreach. We disagree with the statement that many projects move ahead quickly with minimal community input. In fact, the Waterfront Land Use Plan, adapted and implemented by the Port Commission, calls for an extensive public review process prior to the leasing and development of Port property.*

Recommendation 9a:

The Port should ensure ongoing community input be maintained until an acceptable compromise is reached on the final plans.

Response: Agree. *The Department of Public Works agrees with this recommendation especially that community input usually generates comments and ideas that benefit projects and ensures that final*



plans reflect community needs and concerns. The Department of Public Works worked closely with the Port in providing information and input on all matters related to Pier 70 Master Plan that are under Public Works jurisdiction. The Department of Public Works implemented a similar extensive outreach process for its projects, and will continue to implement such a process in the future.

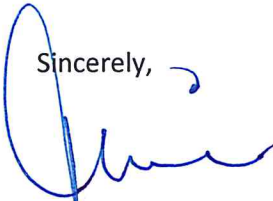
Recommendation 9b:

The Jury neither supports nor opposes the development of Pier 70 but we strongly endorse the extensive public outreach and community input as part of the design and development process of the Pier 70 Master Plan. We recommend that the Port follow this model as a template for all major developments on Port lands.

Response: Agree. *The Department of Public Works agrees with this recommendation. We work closely with the Port of San Francisco on many small and large projects and we collaborate on public outreach and coordination with all affected agencies. However, while every development opportunity must undergo thorough public review, not every project will require the steps that were conducted for the Pier 70 Preferred Master Plan. The Department of Public Works implemented a similar extensive outreach process for its projects, and will continue to implement such a process in the future.*

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this Civil Grand Jury report.

Sincerely,



Fuad Sweiss, PE, PLS
City Engineer, Deputy Director of Public Works
San Francisco Department of Public Works

cc. Antonio Guerra, Mayor's Office of Public Policy and Finance
Erica Major, Assistant Committee Clerk, Board of Supervisors
Monique Moyer, Director, Port of San Francisco
Mohammed Nuru, Director, Department of Public Works

