

SFHAC Staff Statement: Let's Create 2,500 Homes at Balboa Reservoir

The San Francisco Housing Action Coalition (SFHAC) would like to congratulate the development team of AvalonBay Communities, BRIDGE Housing, Mission Housing, Pacific Union Development Company, and Habitat for Humanity of Greater San Francisco for their selection to develop the Balboa Reservoir site. As a staff, we're proud that the winning team features so many business members and we want to share our thoughts on the winning proposal.

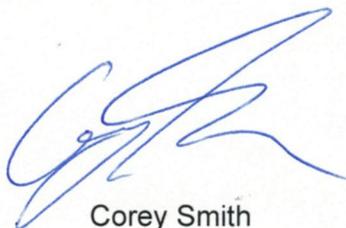
Housing: Located next to the Balboa Park BART Station, the Balboa Reservoir is one of the few under-utilized lots of its size left in San Francisco. Creating well-designed, well-located, multi-family housing has been the core of our advocacy since our inception nearly 20 years ago. After looking at recent housing proposals and analyzing the site, we believe the site should include no less than 2,500 homes. More housing would help reduce the public dollars used to make 50-percent of the homes subsidized for low- and middle-income families. More affordable housing at less costs to taxpayers is a win-win.

Community: SFHAC staff has regularly participated in the Balboa Reservoir Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings for the last two years. We have spoken to people who live next to the site and we value the thorough community engagement that is underway. We encourage all San Franciscans to participate in the process so they can help shape the future of this new community. This project has the potential to be a place thousands of people, of all income levels, can one day call home. Thorough public feedback coupled with a shared vision that responds to San Francisco's housing needs will result in a great neighborhood.

Transit: Unlike the local chapter of the Sierra Club, SFHAC is interested in achieving our state's environmental goals and we understand that housing near transit encourages people to use public transportation and reduces the private car use. Emissions from automobiles is one of the leading causes of climate change. Every home not built at Balboa Reservoir will require a Bay Area employee to live elsewhere, even as far away as the Central Valley. Locally, we understand the importance of integrating the Balboa Reservoir with future transit improvements in the area that encourage alternative modes of transportation. We view the pedestrian experience between Balboa Reservoir and Balboa Park BART as critical to the success of the project.



Todd David



Corey Smith



Rob Poole