

POTRERO BOOSTERS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
SERVING THE HILL SINCE 1926

January 1, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association has long supported the efforts of Potrero residents in reclaiming underutilized public lands to create new, neighborhood-serving green spaces. In this tradition, we support the efforts of the Mariposa-Utah Neighborhood Association and its affiliates in the creation of a Potrero Gateway Park in the area surrounding the 101 Freeway between Seventeenth Street and Eighteenth Street.

Seventeenth Street serves as the principle bicycle and pedestrian thoroughfare between Potrero Hill and the Mission District. The 101 underpass acts a barrier between the neighborhoods, with narrow, poorly lit, litter-strewn sidewalks. Illegal encampments on Caltrans property create an unsafe environment for nearby residents and passers-by. The Potrero Gateway Park plan will address these issues and provide an appealing atmosphere for bikers and pedestrians.

As the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan increases the population density on both sides of the underpass, the demand for outdoor space will also grow. Landscaping and making accessible and safe the spaces flanking the underpass will offer additional outdoor resources for new and existing residents.

The Steering Committee for the Potrero Gateway Park, of which, for full disclosure, I am a member, has undertaken a multi-year process of reaching out to and engaging community members with regards to what may be done with the land around the freeway, both by attending and presenting at Boosters meetings and by hosting their own community workshops. The Steering Committee has successfully raised funds to create a general landscaping plan, and has coordinated with the myriad local and state agencies with jurisdiction over the area.

In closing, the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Association supports the creation of a Potrero Gateway Park. I am available to discuss this support with any parties that may request it, at 650-704-7775.

Sincerely,



J.R. Eppler
President