

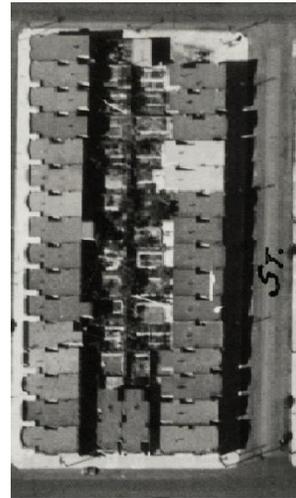
# Vermont Street Hillside Three to Five Year Bio-Landscape Project

## Rough DRAFT

### Background

Before the 101 Freeway was completed in 1954, the Vermont Hillside was filled with homes. Today only four homes remain on the serpentine slope that now gets its height from soil moved there during the construction. In the late 1950's the areas along highway 101 were landscaped. Irrigation was installed and a variety of trees and bushes were planted. Today the pipes and spray nozzles still remain but water does not run through them. Caltrans has turned off water due to the cost of repairing damage due to illegal cutting into the water supply.

The MUNA neighborhood association came up with a conceptual plan and found funding to make improvements to the Caltrans right-of-way, starting with the 17<sup>th</sup> Street area. Unhappy with the lack of landscape and other maintenance issues in the block bordered by 17<sup>th</sup>, Vermont, Mariposa and San Bruno, neighbors joined in the formation of a Green Benefit District in order to improve the area. The MUNA Potrero Gateway project is working with San Francisco Public Works. San Francisco Public Works has designed landscape improvements that do not include the Vermont Hillside at this point.



### Current Neighborhood Work - The Eco-Patch

In June 2020 the neighborhood, with guidance from members of the Yerba Buena CNPS and volunteer landscape architects from Field Collective, designed a 1000sq. ft. test garden consisting of three weed control methods and 8 plant archetypes. The plants are local native species to improve biodiversity and to be an example for the neighbors, neighborhood, residents in other parts of the City, as well as to visitors. For a background on the Eco-Patch, check the website: [Eco-Patch Test Garden](#)

### A Three-Five Year Project

The Vermont Street Hillside Project is anticipated to be a project that will take three to five years to accomplish, as it has many components. The invasive weeds need to be removed. The soil needs to be amended. Trees that support habitat need to replace the existing trees and bushes. New native habitat supporting plants need to replace the weeds. Funding for this project should be in the yearly GBD budget for three years to establish the landscape. Caltrans and Public Works should participate.

Proposed Calendar for the work in Appendix A

### Objectives

The Vermont Hillside Project will transform the hillside in a way that will meet multiple criteria:

- The hillside landscape will discourage negative uses.
- The hillside landscape will require minimal maintenance.

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- The hillside landscape will support local native wildlife.
- The hillside landscape will provide access for visits to the Eco-Patch Demonstration Gardens.
- The hillside landscape will only contain trees that can be identified as species that support wildlife.
- The hillside landscape will be primarily groundcover and low shrubs.
- The hillside landscape will integrate into the GBD Vermont Sidewalk project
- The planting plan will leverage successional planting strategies and include fine tuning of plant mixes over the course of three years, similar to the way many ecological restoration projects are done.

### Request for Funding

In order to accomplish the objectives above, we would like to:

1. Hire a landscape architect that will build on the Eco Patch Test Garden to create a plan that specifies how each of the above objectives will be met and generally.
  - The plan will meet Caltrans requirements and be submittable for an Adopt-a-Highway permit update.
  - The plan will specify both flora and fauna to meet the objectives.
  - The plan will contain a weed removal plan needed before planting.
  - The plan will specify the invasive species of plants that need to be removed and recommended removal techniques.
  - The plan will specify the trees that need to be removed.
  - Procure plants they are local eco-type.
2. The landscape architect will work with the GBD maintenance crew to create a plan that outlines the maintenance needs.
3. The landscape architect will create construction documents.
4. Neighborhood manager will guide and assist the volunteers in planting according to the landscape plan

### Expenses

Landscape Architect

Materials (cardboard, compost, wood chips, plants)

Water

Paid Labor (installing compost)

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### APPENDIX A

Now through Project beginning

- Extend the Adopt-A-Highway or get the area under a Public Work Encroachment agreement.
- Landscape Architect will select plant typologies: Oak savannah, wildflower and grassland meadow, upland scrub, etc.
- Hire a landscape architect to develop a planting plan for the entire area if possible both sides of the Highway 101. Use the Eco-Patch soil tests, native plants as a guide for the entire area to be planted
- Outreach to the neighborhood
- Get approvals and permits.
  - Adopt-a-Highway - Caltrans

August

- Caltrans or GBD to remove the non-native trees and other weedy vegetation. Maybe leave the 2 Pine trees. The main tree trunks might be used as a decorative element as they decompose on site.
- Sheet mulching

Fall - Winter

- Plant native plants after the first rain (fall or winter). Use weed free mulch between plants to prevent weeds from the surrounding area. **Round 1** Planting
- Water if rainfall is not at seasonal normal levels during the winter
- Weeding ongoing

Spring, Year 2

- Weed the site in the Spring
- Water if needed using irrigation
- BioBlitz of this site – Involved Downtown HS students if possible

Winter Year 2

- **Round 2** Planting

Spring Year 3

- Water if needed using irrigation
- Weed
- BioBlitz of this site

Winter Year 3

- **Round 3** Planting

Ongoing

- Communicate with neighbors and others
- Evaluate the plants and weeds each quarter (photography and on site)
- Report after year one, year two, and year three
- Continue Planting rounds 4-5