

**From:** Natalie Burdick  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** SF needs more democratic institutions, not fewer in this moment...  
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Dear Task Force members,

As a San Francisco resident, I am writing to urge you to retain the Commission on the Environment as a decision-making body, rather than as a rubber-stamp advisory council.

Now more than ever, we need independent, public oversight of budgets and contracts, particularly for waste agreements to ensure zero waste commitments are met and for grant approvals to ensure equitable allocations in funding for our community organizations.

In addition, given the Commission's authority is embedded in the City Charter, removing its decision-making functions could create legal ambiguity. Finally, Mayoral administrations come and go, but Commissions made up of citizens provide critical institutional memory, providing not only continuity across administrations, but also long-term focus on critical goals like net-zero by 2040.

San Francisco runs the risk of losing the momentum that has kept us at the forefront of sustainability and climate change if the Commission's role is diminished. True leadership demands accountability—which advisory bodies simply can not provide. The Commission must continue to have the authority to make decisions, if San Francisco is to continue to be a city of innovation.

Regards,  
Natalie Burdick  
94103

