

City & County of San Francisco
Daniel Lurie, Mayor



Office of the City Administrator
Carmen Chu, City Administrator

Bayview Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee

September 24, 2025

The Honorable Mayor Daniel Lurie
The Honorable Supervisor Shamann Walton

Dear Mayor Lurie and Supervisor Walton:

I write to strongly urge the City to preserve the Bayview Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee (Bayview CAC). While I appreciate the Task Force's review of the City's boards and commissions, the rationale offered for eliminating the CAC does not withstand close scrutiny and overlooks the body's unique role in ensuring equity, accountability, and trust in City decision-making.

1. The Bayview CAC was created for a distinct purpose that remains unmet.

The Bayview CAC was established in 2013 to carry forward the role of Redevelopment Project Area Committees and to provide structured, community-driven input on land use decisions. The conditions that justified its creation—decades of disinvestment, environmental injustice, and redevelopment without adequate community voice—persist today. Eliminating the CAC now would abandon the very residents who still experience the greatest impacts from City planning decisions.

2. Quorum and attendance challenges reflect City inaction, not irrelevance.

The report notes that the CAC met only four times last year and often struggled to achieve quorum. This is not evidence of community disinterest—it is the result of long-standing vacancies and delays in appointments. For the last year, we have implored all of the appointing agencies to fill the CAC vacancies to no avail. Where the City has acted promptly to fill seats and support recruitment, the CAC has had tremendous participation. Rather than dissolving the CAC, the solution is clear: ensure timely appointments and provide members with adequate staff support.

3. The Bayview CAC's advisory role is not duplicative.

While other commissions such as the Planning Commission or SFPUC CAC review projects, none are rooted specifically in Bayview or charged with evaluating land use decisions through the lens of local equity and community impact. The Bayview CAC is the only body with a mandate to amplify neighborhood voices on projects that uniquely affect Bayview residents. One of the key accomplishments of the Bayview CAC is confirming local job creation commitments by project sponsors and connecting them with local community groups to achieve their commitments. This type of local engagement is not the purview of the Planning Commission. Even the Hunters Point CAC has a different geographic and economic mandate as they represent the Hunters Point redevelopment project, a completely distinct neighborhood with different concerns from the remainder of Bayview. To dismiss this as "overlap" is to confuse jurisdictional breadth with community-specific accountability.

4. Public participation challenges are systemic, not unique to the Bayview CAC.

The report highlights low public comment at CAC meetings. Yet low turnout is common across many advisory bodies. Eliminating the CAC would not solve the underlying issue of participation—it would only remove one of the few formal spaces dedicated to Bayview residents. A better approach is to strengthen outreach, provide translation and childcare, and ensure meetings are accessible both virtually and in-person.

5. Equity and Public Trust

Finally, the report frames the CAC's importance as primarily symbolic. Yet in communities that have historically borne disproportionate burdens of redevelopment and disinvestment, formal structures of participation carry both symbolic and substantive value. The existence of the Bayview CAC demonstrates a City commitment to embedding equity in land use decision-making. Its dissolution would undercut that commitment and further erode public trust.

6. Recommendations

For these reasons, I urge the City to preserve the Bayview CAC and to strengthen its operations through:

- Prompt and consistent appointments within three months to ensure quorum;
- Reduce quorum requirement to mitigate quorum issues;
- Enhanced staff support for members;
- Improved outreach strategies to increase community participation; and
- Structured coordination with other relevant commissions to maximize efficiency while preserving community-specific input.

In a period when trust in government is fragile, particularly in neighborhoods with a history of exclusion, eliminating the Bayview CAC would be a step backward.

At the same time, it is critical to recognize the broader national context. The current federal administration has repeatedly attempted to dismantle equity programs with political rhetoric aimed at discrediting initiatives with any equity component as unnecessary or divisive. This does not represent San Francisco values and San Francisco should not follow this path, even inadvertently. Eliminating the Bayview CAC would mirror those efforts and risk signaling to Bayview residents that their hard-won seat at the table can be discarded for the sake of administrative convenience.

The better path is to reinforce this body and align it with the City's broader engagement strategies. In doing so, San Francisco can honor its promise of inclusive governance and ensure that Bayview residents have a real voice in shaping the future of their neighborhood.

Thank you for your leadership and for considering this perspective.

Respectfully,

Devanshu Patel

Devanshu Patel, Chair
Bayview Hunters Point Citizens Advisory Committee

cc: Proposition E Commission Streamlining Task Force