

From: [REDACTED]
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Keep the Commission on the Environment
Date: Friday, December 5, 2025 12:03:33 PM

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I write in strong support of maintaining the Commission on the Environment's decision-making authority, and against your recommendation to not prioritize the environment. Climate change is accelerating, and San Francisco will face increasing environmental emergencies in the coming years—extreme heat events, drought, wildfire smoke, sea level rise, and ecosystem collapse. These crises will require rapid, coordinated responses that an advisory body cannot provide.

The Commission's power to approve emergency funding, redirect resources, and mandate immediate action from city departments is essential infrastructure for climate resilience. When wildfire smoke blankets the city, the Commission can quickly allocate funds for air quality monitoring and public health interventions. When extreme heat threatens vulnerable populations, it can ensure cooling centers are properly resourced. An advisory body can only make suggestions during emergencies—suggestions that may take weeks or months to work through bureaucratic channels while people suffer. Decision-making authority allows the Commission to act with the speed that climate emergencies demand.

Moreover, the Commission's authority ensures that our response to one crisis doesn't create another. It can prevent departments from pursuing emergency measures that solve an immediate problem while causing long-term environmental harm. This kind of integrated crisis management requires real power, not just the ability to offer advice.

As climate impacts intensify, we need stronger environmental governance, not weaker. Please maintain the Commission's authority so San Francisco can respond effectively to the environmental challenges ahead.

Urgently,

Sheila Thompson