

From: [REDACTED]
To: [commissionstreamlining](#)
Subject: Keep the Commission on the Environment - We implore you!
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Dear Streamlining Task Force Members,

I write to express my strong support for maintaining the Commission on the Environment as a decision-making body with full authority.

The Commission's power to approve contracts and oversee budgets creates essential legal accountability that cannot be replicated through advisory functions. Over the past several years, the Commission has rejected inadequate proposals, demanded stronger environmental standards in city contracts, and ensured that millions in grant funding reach organizations that deliver measurable results. This oversight has prevented waste and guaranteed that environmental investments actually serve their intended purpose.

An advisory body cannot provide this level of scrutiny. Recommendations without enforcement mechanisms become suggestions that departments can ignore when politically convenient or when facing budget pressures. The Commission's authority to approve or deny funding proposals forces city departments to meet environmental standards before money changes hands—this is good governance and fiscal responsibility.

Additionally, the Commission provides legal protection for the city. By requiring environmental review and approval through a public process, the Commission helps San Francisco defend against lawsuits and ensures compliance with state and federal environmental regulations. Weakening this structure could expose the city to legal liability.

The efficiency gained from reducing the Commission to advisory status is minimal compared to the accountability we would lose. I urge you to preserve the Commission's decision-making authority.

Respectfully,

Jane Dentinger Martin