Commissioners Streamlining Task Force,

San Francisco has done woefully little to act on climate change. We could be doing so much more - planting trees, funding public EV charging stations, installing more solar on public buildings, etc. Instead, the City has consistently underfunded the SF Environment Dept. and made little effort to accomplish concrete steps like those above.

And now, the Commission Streamlining Task Force is recommending downgrading the Commission on the Environment to advisory status - and after 3 years to eliminate it altogether. This is unacceptable.

The Commission on the Environment promotes environmental justice by directing funding and programs to communities most impacted by pollution and climate change; it strengthens workforce development by investing in youth climate internships and green jobs; it provides residents a formal platform to speak out and influence policy. These are just some of its functions.

Now more that ever, the world needs climate leadership from local governments - not heads in the sand. Drastic cuts to the SF Environment Department in the recent 2-year budget revealed an ominous willingness to ignore action to prevent the ever-increasing severity of climate disasters. Gutting and cutting the Department's oversight body only reinforces this impression. It will not streamline government - it will make it harder for the City to keep its focus on eliminating the cause of global warming. Other departments are each much more focused on their primary mission; it is SFE alone, directed by the Commission, whose mission is to reduce emissions citywide and protect our climate.

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