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## Plan for Warriors arena on San Francisco waterfront gets a big boost

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Artist's rendering of the proposed waterfront arena.

Maybe it's just easy to love a winner. Days after the Golden State Warriors made the playoffs for just the second time in 19 seasons, an eclectic group gathered on the steps of City Hall on Tuesday to proclaim its support for building a basketball arena for the unlikely winners on the city's waterfront. The arena cheerleaders included business leaders, labor representatives, leaders of youth organizations and regular fans in team jerseys.

The group - which calls itself Warriors on the Waterfront and has a new web-site by the same name - plans to turn out in force to

upcoming City Hall meetings on the arena, as well as neighborhood events and community festivals to tout the arena plan.

"You can build an arena in a lot of places," said former 49ers president Carmen Policy, who led San Francisco's failed effort to keep the 49ers from packing up for Santa Clara. "You can only build the greatest, best, most iconic structure in San Francisco."

The current plan, backed by the Warriors and Mayor Ed Lee, calls for a 17,500-seat arena on Piers 30-32 that would host the Warriors as well as music concerts and conventions.

But support certainly isn't unanimous. There's another new group called the San Francisco Waterfront Alliance which includes former Mayor Art Agnos and ex-Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg and, of course, has its own web-site at [www.sf-wa.org](http://www.sf-wa.org). Environmental groups including Save the Bay and some neighbors have also slammed the plan. Concerns include blocked bay views and access, the potential for too much traffic and noise and City Hall bowing to the whims of wealthy sports owners at the expense of average citizens.

Warriors on the Waterfront may want to adopt Bob Graham, a 77-year-old condo owner who lives just a block from Piers 30-32, as its official spokesman.

Of potential noise and traffic, he said, "To that I say, guess what? We live in a city - that's what a city is all about!" And of blocked views, he said, "That's a small price for glory."

But not every member of Warriors on the Waterfront was in complete agreement. Janet Clyde, owner of Vesuvio, said she looks forward to one day attending a Bruce Springsteen concert at the new arena.

"She'll take Bruce Springsteen," countered Omega Boys Club founder Joe Marshall. "I'll take Beyonce."

Posted By: Heather Knight ( Email ) | Apr 16 at 3:11 pm

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@petridishes nails it: Uncle Ruslan had "the humanity the bombers themselves were missing, in indignant spades." [wapo.st/ZEOku2](http://wapo.st/ZEOku2)  
Show Summary
  - John King** @JohnKingSFChron 27m  
Or Christmas morning. MT@IngaSaffron: Turned into 70 degree snow day in Cambridge. A few joggers, cyclists, but almost every shop closed.
  - SarahHinmanRyan** @SarahHinmanRyan 34m  
@stephaniemlee Yes, ma'am. Especially when "Twitter trigger finger" can cause riots or as he sayst, try people in the court of social media.

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**HEARST** *newspapers*

San Francisco Chronicle: 4/21/13

## **New top cop at UC knows what victims feel like, too**

MATIER & ROSS

UC Berkeley's new Police Chief Margo Bennett has a storied past that could have been a true-crime novel. The tale, recounted in various newspapers, magazines, on TV and even a book, started back in 1991 when Bennett, then an instructor in interrogation at the FBI Academy, met and had an affair with best-selling author Patricia Cornwell, who was researching a novel at the Quantico, Va., headquarters. That affair fueled an already explosive relationship between Margo and her FBI agent husband, Eugene Bennett, who she had fingered to the FBI as trying to defraud the agency of more than \$17,000. He was indicted for fraud, and Margo promised to testify at the trial. But just a few days before she was to go on the stand, Margo says her husband shot her repeatedly with a stun gun, gagged and blindfolded her, and stuffed her in the trunk of a car. She said he then drove her to a remote location, telling her that others involved in the fraud had kidnapped their two kids and that she needed to recant her story. She did, leaving prosecutors stunned. But, after confiding to a friend and her attorney that she had feared for her children's safety, a new trial was ordered. Following a plea deal, Gene Bennett landed in prison for a year. In 1996, after he had been released and divorce proceedings were under way, Gene showed up at Margo's church. He donned a ski mask and pulled a gun on the minister, shackling the man's arms and legs and placing explosives around the man's waist. Gene ordered the minister to phone Margo and lure her to the church. When a suspicious Margo arrived, her estranged husband came lunging toward her. She pepper-sprayed the masked man, then ran into a back office before reaching for her pistol and firing. "There was no way I was

going to get out of there without firing a shot,” she said. “It missed him by less than an inch.” He fled but was arrested soon after. At his subsequent trial, it was revealed that he had been plotting to torture and murder Margo and frame her for bombing the minister. He was convicted of several charges, including attempted murder, and sentenced to 23 years in prison. Margo went on to work for the Northern Virginia Community College police force, rising to the rank of police chief, before joining UC Berkeley Police as a captain in 2002. She was named interim chief in December. “I’ve been a victim and know what being a victim is like,” Bennett told us Friday. “And I have used that information to strengthen who I am, and I bring it into everything I do. “I’ve had life experiences that very few people have, and it makes me a better person and better chief. ... I always have this as a part of me.”

**Bouncing ball: Oakland Mayor Jean Quan has quietly launched an effort to put the brakes on the Golden State Warriors’ plans for a new San Francisco waterfront arena. At issue is the Warriors’ attempt to get the state Legislature to pass a bill that would: (A) basically give the State Lands Commission a pass on having to approve the arena; (B) modify the rules to make it harder for the environmentally sensitive Bay Conservation and Development Commission to nix the project; and (C) make it tougher for neighborhood opponents to challenge the project in court. Quan and fellow East Bay Mayors Tom Bates of Berkeley, Gayle McLaughlin of Richmond and Stephen Cassidy of San Leandro all signed a letter opposing the bill. “We just think the project should play by the same rules as everyone else,” Quan said when asked about the letter. Bates, who sits on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, is also concerned about what precedent would be set if the team is successful. “It’s basically an end run,” Bates said. Whatever**

**the case, the bill, which was introduced by San Francisco Assemblyman Phil Ting, passed out of its first committee this past week by a 7-2 vote, with Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner (an East Bay Democrat) one of the two “no” votes. Warriors spokesman Nate Ballard said, letter or no letter, “We are going to work hard for every vote.” Believe it.**

Chronicle columnists Phillip Matier and Andrew Ross appear Sundays, Mondays and Wednesdays Phil can be seen on KPIX TV’s morning and evening news. He can also be heard on KCBS radio Monday through Friday at 7:50 a.m and 5:50 p.m. Got a tip? Call (415) 777-8815 or e-mail [matierandross@ sfchronicle.com](mailto:matierandross@sfchronicle.com) .

DAILY REPUBLIC  
APRIL 25, 2013

## Plan Bay Area gets chilly reception at Solano hearing



Richard Brnett, right, of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, points out features of proposed new bicycle facilities on a map of the Bay Area to Kathy Kerridge during the open house on the Draft Plan Bay Area, in Vallejo, Monday. (Adam Smith/Daily Republic)

By [Barry Eberling](#)  
[From page A1](#) | April 23, 2013 | [5 Comments](#)

VALLEJO — The Plan Bay Area roadshow came Monday to Solano County and got mixed reviews, with most of the people who spoke during a hearing voicing criticisms.

Plan Bay Area is a proposal by the Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission on how the Bay Area should grow through 2040. It stresses the development of compact, pedestrian-friendly communities near mass transit hubs, as opposed to traditional suburban subdivisions on the region's fringes.

In Solano County, growth hot spots would include the Peabody and Vanden road areas in Fairfield near a planned train station, the Texas Street corridor in Fairfield, downtown Suisun City, downtown Vacaville, the Vallejo waterfront and the Rio Vista waterfront. The various communities have designated these places as “priority development areas.”

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Association of Bay Area Governments have been holding open houses and public hearings in the nine Bay Area counties prior to voting on Plan Bay Area in July. The Solano County event took place in McCormack Hall at the Solano County fairgrounds.

First came an open house, with displays describing the plan and listing such benefits as preserving open space, creating economic vitality and building healthy and safe communities. Officials from the Association of Bay Area Governments, Metropolitan Transportation Commission and other agencies stood by to answer questions.

Vallejo resident Nathan Stout spoke to an official, then expressed skepticism over Plan Bay Area. He asked how the Association of Bay Area Governments is accountable to citizens. He said the Vallejo priority development area might create more low-income housing in downtown Vallejo, which he opposes.

Nearby, Vallejo resident Doug Darling called the plan “social engineering.” He criticized the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for promoting priority development areas by making transportation dollars available for such areas.

The agency is “dangling money like a carrot in front of a horse,” Darling said.

When questioned about this, Metropolitan Transportation Commission spokesman John Goodwin said the carrot is small, with \$320 million available for all of the Bay Area’s priority development areas over the coming four years.

“There’s nothing coercive about it,” Goodwin said. “The absence of reward is not punishment.”

About 40 people attended the public hearing portion of the event and about 20 people spoke, almost all of them against Plan Bay Area. Vallejo resident Natalia Clarke said she came from Ukraine to get away from socialism.

“If this is such a good idea, why not put it to a vote of the people?” Suisun City resident George Guynn said.

Kathy Kerridge of Benicia spoke in favor of Plan Bay Area. It’s vital in a region as interconnected as the Bay Area to do long-range planning, she said.

“I think when you have infill housing and you have a little higher density, you can preserve more of the open space that is around us,” she said.

Solano County Supervisors Jim Spering and Linda Seifert led the public hearing. Spering is on the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Seifert on the Association of Bay Area Governments board.

Spering ended the hearing by saying he believes there are misconceptions about Plan Bay Area. He offered to talk with citizens to go over details of the plan.

A person from the audience asked Spering if he really, in his gut, favors Plan Bay Area.

Spering said that he does. It's important to plan for the future, but a mechanism is needed to adjust the plan, he said.

Driving the development of Plan Bay Area are state laws that link transportation with land use planning and that seek to cut back on greenhouse gases. The plan makes use of what proponents call "smart growth" policies that have been discussed in the Bay Area and Solano County since the 1990s.

The Bay Area will grow from about 7 million residents today to about 9 million by 2040, according to Plan Bay Area.

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## Barry Eberling

Barry Eberling has been a reporter with the Daily Republic since 1987. He covers Solano County government, transportation, growth and the environment. He received his bachelors of art degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara and his masters degree in journalism from the University of California, Berkeley.

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