



February 5, 2020

San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
375 Beale Street, 5th Floor, Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: February 6, 2020 Commission Meeting Item #8: Evaluation of Lawrence J. Goldzband

Dear Chair Wasserman and Commissioners:

Over the past three years, we have made it known repeatedly to your commission as well as state legislators and the public at-large that we think it is time for immediate reform of the Bay Conservation and Development Commission.

Accountability begins at the top, and that is why we urge you to seek a fresh start and remove Larry Goldzband as the executive director of BCDC. We would like to take this opportunity to provide multiple reasons why your commission should consider this bold and overdue action regarding Mr. Goldzband:

- Directed a BCDC whose permitting and enforcement departments are in disarray, including:
 - a backlog of more than 280 enforcement cases, some of them dating back more than 20 years;
 - inconsistent assessment of violations and laughable policies that led to fines for the shape of picnic tables and docking of first responder vessels;
 - a lack of direction that left staff trying to figure out which cases deserve the highest priority;
- Resisted the findings of the 2019 JLAC audit, not paying much mind at all to the 24 recommendations made by the auditor and continuing to allow BCDC staff to proceed as if no substantive findings were made;
- Directed a BCDC that gives its open blessing to the misuse of funds, including the payment of staff salaries from the Bay Fill Abatement Fund, a practice singled out for reform in the 2019 audit, but no remedy has to date been demonstrated;

- Directed a BCDC that has not operated a Citizens' Advisory Committee in 19 years, yet another practice singled out for reform by the 2019 audit, but to date, no remedy has been discussed by this commission;
- Directed a BCDC that continually wastes millions in taxpayer dollars contesting legal challenges, especially ones that could take minutes or hours to resolve, such as the lawsuit filed by the Bay Stewardship Alliance over Public Records Act requests;
- Oversaw a \$3 million move from a serviceable office in a state office building to a luxurious brand new office space in 2019, costing California taxpayers thousands in additional rent over the multi-year lease term;
- Continues to direct this agency while saying he can help things improve with more funding from the state, but is ineffective at actually obtaining said state dollars beyond paltry cost-of-living increases for staff;

For these and other reasons, we would like to once again recommend this commission take the courageous path away from business as usual and start fresh with a new executive director. There is too much at stake for the future of San Francisco Bay to continue on the current path.

Respectfully,



Bob Wilson
Co-Founder
SF Bay Stewardship Alliance