
Fw: Opposition to Lighting and to the Peoples of the Canal Art Project

From Reception@BCDC <reception@bcdca.gov>
Date Mon 3/2/2026 2:27 PM
To BCDC Public Comment <publiccomment@bcdca.gov>

All my best,

**Sierra Peterson, Executive Manager & Commissioner Liaison
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
Mobile:(415) 918 7162
Desk: (415) 352 3608
375 Beale St., Ste. 510
San Francisco, CA 94105**

From: Jeffrey Finn <1956madworld@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 1, 2026 10:42 AM
To: Kate Colin <kate.colin@cityofsanrafael.org>; maika.gulati@cityofsanrafael.org <maika.gulati@cityofsanrafael.org>; eli.hill@cityofsanrafael.org <eli.hill@cityofsanrafael.org>; maribeth.bushey@cityofsanrafael.org <maribeth.bushey@cityofsanrafael.org>; rachel.kertz@cityofsanrafael.org <rachel.kertz@cityofsanrafael.org>; city.clerk@cityofsanrafael.org <city.clerk@cityofsanrafael.org>; paul.navazio@cityofsanrafael.org <paul.navazio@cityofsanrafael.org>; april.miller@cityofsanrafael.org <april.miller@cityofsanrafael.org>; craig.veramay@cityofsanrafael.org <craig.veramay@cityofsanrafael.org>; greg.minor@cityofsanrafael.org <greg.minor@cityofsanrafael.org>; grey.melgard@cityofsanrafael.org <grey.melgard@cityofsanrafael.org>; publicart@cityofsanrafael.org <publicart@cityofsanrafael.org>; richstorek@icloud.com <richstorek@icloud.com>; omarc@canalalliance.org <omarc@canalalliance.org>; kristie.hubacker@cityofsanrafael.org <kristie.hubacker@cityofsanrafael.org>; info@marincf.org <info@marincf.org>; outreach@marinaudubon.org <outreach@marinaudubon.org>; Reception@BCDC <reception@bcdca.gov>; community.development@cityofsanrafael.org <community.development@cityofsanrafael.org>; Tong, Linda@SCC <Linda.Tong@scc.ca.gov>; director@wildlife.ca.gov <director@wildlife.ca.gov>; Dave Allen <dallen@marinij.com>; editor@marinmagazine.com <editor@marinmagazine.com>; Adrian Rodriguez <arodriguez@marinij.com>; rhalstead@marinij.com <rhalstead@marinij.com>; cmacdonald@marinij.com <cmacdonald@marinij.com>; spotswood@comcast.net <spotswood@comcast.net>; annie.vainshtein@sfchronicle.com <annie.vainshtein@sfchronicle.com>; julie.johnson@sfchronicle.com <julie.johnson@sfchronicle.com>; tara.duggan@sfchronicle.com <tara.duggan@sfchronicle.com>
Subject: Opposition to Lighting and to the Peoples of the Canal Art Project

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I am submitting this comment for the record to state my opposition to both the installation of any lighting and to the overall Peoples of the Canal art project as currently proposed for the Starkweather Path.

The Starkweather Path is officially posted **sunrise to sunset**, and that policy reflects the narrow width of the trail, the sensitive shoreline habitat, and the long-standing understanding that this is not a 24-hour corridor. Any lighting—whether part of this project or added later—would effectively convert the path into a **round-the-clock facility**, which is unsafe and incompatible with the physical constraints of the trail. The pavement already contains **multiple trip hazards** from years of deferred maintenance, and expanding hours without addressing basic safety would increase the risk of injury. Even if lighting were ever considered, it would need to be limited to **wildlife-friendly red-spectrum illumination**, because standard lighting disrupts nocturnal species that rely on this shoreline. The Starkweather corridor is one of the few remaining dark, quiet stretches of habitat in the Canal area, and preserving that ecological function should be a priority.

I also oppose the art project itself. The path simply **does not have the physical room** for additional installations without further narrowing an already constrained corridor. The City has not maintained the existing amenities—most notably the **PAR course stations**, which were allowed to deteriorate and disappear through neglect rather than public process. Before adding new infrastructure, the City should restore and maintain what was originally designed for this park.

Finally, this project represents an **overreach by the Pickleweed Community Center and its advisory structures**, which appear to be extending their influence into public shoreline space that serves the entire city, not just one neighborhood or stakeholder group. Public space should not be repurposed or symbolically claimed by any single organization.

For these reasons, I oppose any lighting and I oppose the Peoples of the Canal art project in its current form. I urge the city to prioritize maintenance, safety, ecological protection, and the original recreational design of the Starkweather Path.

Sincerely
Jeffrey Finn