

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Mayor
San Francisco City Hall
Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

September 21, 2009

Dear Mayor Newsom,

On behalf of the members of the San Francisco Urban Wind Power Task Force, we wish to express our gratitude for inviting us to serve the City and County of San Francisco. Please find enclosed our report of recommendations on advancing City policy to encourage the expansion of local wind power generation in San Francisco.

Over the past year, the Task Force has dedicated many hours in trying to identify the key issues facing small-scale wind power development in urban environments, including: understanding small wind technologies, small wind turbine testing and certification; understanding the wind resource and data collection; permitting; costs and incentives; potential impacts on flying animals; clean tech and workforce development opportunities; promoting public awareness and demonstration site opportunities in the City.

While San Francisco may have only a “moderate” medium- to large-scale wind resource, the Task Force unanimously felt that that the City’s small-scale wind resource is not yet fully understood. In fact, conditions in some parts of the City may be suitable—perhaps even optimal—for micro- and small-scale “urban” wind applications.

The City and County of San Francisco, under your leadership, has demonstrated unparalleled commitment to greenhouse gas reduction and providing the resources necessary to meet these commitments. In pursuit of these aggressive goals, the City has promoting a number of programs to support energy efficiency, solar PV, solar water heating, ocean power, geothermal heat pumps and cogeneration, and now, “urban wind.” The individual members of the Task Force are honored to play a role in the City’s early efforts to encourage the expansion of local wind power generation.

We are in the very early stages of identifying the potential role “urban wind” might play in the City’s renewable energy future. With this in mind, the Task Force has developed these recommendations to help the City identify key issues to address—as they pertain to small wind—as the City moves forward on its sustainable energy path.

Please let us know if we can provide any assistance in the implementation of these recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,

The Members of the San Francisco Urban Wind Power Task Force
(individual members listed on the following page)

San Francisco Urban Wind Power Task Force Members

Richard Parker, 450 Architects
Todd Pelman, Blue Green Pacific
Joel Goldblatt, Bluenergy Solarwind, Inc.
Patrick S. Harris, Building Turbines
John Rizzo, San Francisco City College
Todd Fins, Earth Wind and Power LLC
Dr. Kevin Danaher, Global Exchange
Noreen Weeden, Golden Gate Audubon Society
Jon Dale, Helix Wind
Stephen Chapes, Ideas
Rick Margollin, Innovo Energy (on behalf of AeroVironment, Inc.)
Tim Donovan, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 6
Glen Dahlbacka, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
Jeff Gigoux, Mariah Power
Derek Smith, Marinship Development International
Greg Kennedy, Occidental Power
Bob Hayes, Prevailing Wind Power
Jeremy Paul, Quickdraw Permit Consulting
Brad Drda, SF Recycling & Disposal, a Recology Company
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Robin Wilson, Whirligig Inc.
Reza Sheikhezai, Windation Energy Systems
Caryn Otto, WinDensity
Larry Wagner, WindTerra Inc.
Chris Beudoin, Citizen
Gayle Larson, Wind Advocate