Attachment B
Yerba Buena Gardens Support Letters
On behalf of the Yerba Buena Alliance, we would like to submit an update to you on the Principles for the Future of Yerba Buena Gardens. The Yerba Buena Alliance has been outreaching to community as one of the lead stakeholder organizations that is dedicated to sustaining the Yerba Buena Gardens as it transfers from the Successor Agency to the City of San Francisco. We would like to report those who have signed onto the Principles. We have brought together businesses, residents, cultural organizations and community stakeholders who are concerned what happens next and into the future. Together we ask our City leaders to acknowledge the Yerba Buena and its importance and to make a commitment to seeing it retained as a governmental purpose now and into the long term future.

The Yerba Buena Gardens is a celebrated and award winning neighborhood that has been put together with the diligent work of many dedicated people over many years most notably the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency. Intentionally planned to be a world class cultural community, the neighborhood has something for everyone. The Yerba Buena was put together with a series of public private partnerships that have been in the works since the 50/60s and when lawsuits ensued in the 70s as a result of citizen resistance and sophistication, it resulted in a new mode of planning based on collaboration with local residents. Since that time, we have seen the area transform into a genuine neighborhood; a diverse mixture of different uses and constituencies co-existing that balances diverse interests and is a testament to inclusiveness. Yerba Buena's central block, the Gardens, with the memorial waterfall to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr is what ties all of the area together and makes a cohesive public space with mixed use, cultural facilities, performance venues, recreational areas, public open space, children's facilities, a historic carousel and commercial and retail space and is a model for cities around the world.

The Alliance asks you and City leaders to acknowledge the Principles for the future of the Yerba Buena Gardens. As we move into the future, we want to see these assets preserved, protected, maintained and managed by a separate specially created professional entity that has engaged community stakeholders working in the spirit of cooperation to preserve what makes the neighborhood so attractive; arts and culture, green open space, children's facilities, housing, cultural facilities, the Moscone convention center, hotels, retail and commercial development and much more. We hope we can see the City's commitment to a long range plan that preserves the Yerba Buena Gardens and will fill the gap of the Redevelopment Agency's role as we move into the future.

We appreciate you and the Commission and Oversight Board's careful look at Yerba Buena as we transition and your support of the Yerba Buena Principles. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Virginia Grandi
Yerba Buena Alliance
Program Director
## FUTURE OF YERBA BUENA GARDENS: PRINCIPLES

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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>855 Folsom St.</td>
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<td>4 Barbara Benton</td>
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<td>9 Kevin Best</td>
<td>B Restaurant &amp; Bar Yerba Buena Gardens</td>
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<td>10 Jason Henderson</td>
<td>California Historical Society</td>
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<td>12 Erin Pforte</td>
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<td>13 Linda Benston</td>
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<td>Parish Manger, St. Patrick Church</td>
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<td>17 Daryl Carr</td>
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<tr>
<td>36 Joe Benton</td>
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Yerba Buena Alliance  
www.yerbabuena.org  
Page 1 of 3
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### FUTURE OF YERBA BUENA GARDENS: PRINCIPLES

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<td>Micheal Paiki</td>
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<td>N Mopatthew</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Ice Skates Center Executive Director</td>
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<td>Bonnie Legg</td>
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<td>Paige Scott</td>
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State Law requires that the entirety of Yerba Buena Gardens—all the properties and assets—be transferred from the Successor Redevelopment Agency (now, the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure) to a government entity such as the City of San Francisco. A draft plan for this transfer must be submitted to the State Department of Finance in November 2013. There are several potential ways to satisfy this requirement. Whatever mechanism is ultimately determined by City ordinance, the Yerba Buena community, believes that these fundamental Principles must be implemented to assure that Yerba Buena Gardens will always fulfill the Vision of its Civic and Community purposes. It is our obligation as a community to ensure that there is a seamless transition to a governing body that continues this success and serves all stakeholders into the future.

**FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES**

We believe the following fundamental Principles will assure the continued success of Yerba Buena Gardens

1. The Principle that the Yerba Buena Gardens—consisting of its open spaces and buildings—shall remain as public open space, community and arts facilities, with a now prescribed place for commerce and recreation. Further displacement of any of these uses from the Yerba Buena Gardens must be prohibited.

2. The Principle that all funding from all sources committed for operation of the Yerba Buena Gardens (the GMOS Account—Yerba Buena Gardens Maintenance, Operations, and Security) will continue to be 100% applied to the operation and maintenance of the Yerba Buena Gardens, as specified under current agreements, and shall not be diverted for any other use and that the GMOS revenues will continue to fund the cost of the maintenance and upkeep of the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Children's Creativity Museum, Yerba Buena Child Development Center buildings and open space.

3. The Principle that the Yerba Buena Gardens public spaces will continue to be operated by a first-class property management firm experienced in hosting large public and arts events.

4. The Principle that all the income from temporary rentals of the Yerba Buena Gardens, buildings and outdoor areas will continue to be 100% used to fund programs and events for enjoyment by the public in Yerba Buena Gardens, and programmed by independent, culturally experienced nonprofit arts organizations.

5. The Principle that a single, dedicated, governing body, without a sunset or a fixed term be established for the Yerba Buena Gardens. This governing body shall be responsible for all management and activities to ensure fully transparent and cohesive oversight. This governing body shall have representation and stakeholder engagement of the Yerba Buena community. It shall be properly staffed to execute its duties.

YerbaBuenaAlliance
The undersigned recommend the City adopt these basic Principles essential to ensure that the Yerba Buena Gardens remain a City showcase for its existing components and providing a place for public enjoyment by all city communities and visitors.

Dated this 23rd of November, 2013.

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<td>Dan Holly</td>
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<td>Michael</td>
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Dated this Date: 10/24/2013

Organization: Samovar Tea Lounge

Signature: [Signature]

Title: Director of Operations
Oct 23, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

Our company is a property owner in the area adjacent to Yerba Buena Gardens. Its success to date speaks for itself and we need to position its future leadership to insure this continued success. The thought of having this large asset managed by various City Departments is of great concern to me. I believe we should follow the following concepts as we develop a follow on management plan.

1. The Principle that the Yerba Buena Gardens - consisting of its open spaces and buildings - shall remain as public open space, community and arts facilities, with a now prescribed place for commerce and recreation. Further displacement of any of these uses from the Yerba Buena Gardens must be prohibited.

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Yerba Buena Principles

IMPORTANT COMMUNITY NOTICE

The Yerba Buena Alliance asks all members, business, organizations, residents and interested parties to sign onto the official Yerba Buena Gardens Principles regarding the future of the neighborhood. We want to get out front on the concerns and make our voice heard about retaining the Yerba Buena Gardens as a set of synergistic, integrated uses that will continue to be preserved together and create a managing body that will govern the Yerba Buena in the future.

Please see the Yerba Buena Alliance Principles we are asking that each of the member, business, organization or association of the community sign. Our objective is to speak as one voice as a community and convey our concerns about the transfer of 3 city blocks of Yerba Buena Assets.

Yerba Buena Principles Signing Event
The Alliance will be having a signing event for the Principles Tuesday, October 15th at 735 Market Street, 6th Floor Conference Room from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Please RSVP to info@yerbabuena.org.

If your organization would need to go through approvals of your Board of Directors for signing on, we ask that these Principles be put on your agenda. The Yerba Buena Alliance can send a representative to come and speak with your organization. Contact the Alliance for more information about that.
Background

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It is our obligation as a community to ensure that there is a seamless transition to a governing body that continues this success and serves all stakeholders into the future.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

We believe the following Fundamental Principles will assure the continued success of Yerba Buena Gardens.

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1. The Principle that the Yerba Buena Gardens - consisting of its open spaces and buildings – shall remain as public open space, community and arts facilities, with a now prescribed place for commerce and recreation. Further displacement of any of these uses from the Yerba Buena Gardens must be prohibited.

2. The Principle that all funding from all sources committed for operation of the Yerba Buena Gardens (the GMOS Account – Yerba Buena Gardens Maintenance,
Draft Organization Letter

In addition to signing the Principles, the Alliance is asking that each organization consider using this draft template letter and include your own unique perspective, concerns and needs in this letter to be sent along with the Principles.

Next Community Wide Meeting

The OCII and the City look forward to seeing you at the next community-wide meeting on Thursday October 17, 2013, at 12:00 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. At this meeting, the goal is to provide you with PFM Group's summary of alternative capital financing tools for Yerba Buena Gardens.

See the Key Dates document here.

Deadline:

The Alliance would like to get everyone's signature by Friday, November 1st.

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Our mailing address is:
Yerba Buena Alliance
735 Market Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103
www.yerbabuena.org

unsubscribe from this list  update subscription preferences
The undersigned recommend the City adopt these basic Principles essential to ensure that the Yerba Buena Gardens remain a City showcase for its existing components and providing a place for public enjoyment by all city communities and visitors.

Dated this 23rd of November, 2013.

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<th>Signature</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Hawthorne</td>
<td>HOA Member</td>
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Principles for the Future of Yerba Buena Gardens

enjoyment by the public in Yerba Buena Gardens, and programmed by independent, culturally experienced nonprofit arts organizations.

5. The Principle that a single, dedicated, governing body, without a sunset or a fixed term be established for the Yerba Buena Gardens. This governing body shall be responsible for all management and activities to ensure fully transparent and cohesive oversight. This governing body shall have representation and stakeholder engagement of the Yerba Buena community. It shall be properly staffed to execute its duties.

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Dated this Date: ____________

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Sean Jeffries
Title: Yerba Buena Alliance Board President

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Helen Sause
Title: Board Member, also YB Art + Events + YB Center for the Arts

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Patrick Smith
Title: Yerba Buena Alliance Board of Director

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: A. Cosid
Title: Yerba Buena Board of Directors

Organization: South of Market Child Care, Inc.
Signature: M. Haggken
Title: Executive Director

Organization: Yerba Buena Inc. Sports Center
Signature: Bob Veresman
Title: General Manager

Organization: Yerba Buena Building Center
Signature: Michael Park
Title: President
October 29, 2013

Nadia Sesay, Chair of the Oversight Board  
Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure  
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Sesay,

Yerba Buena Gardens are unlike any other public space in the City, with our diversity of people, artistic and cultural institutions, businesses and public open spaces in a downtown environment. It’s critical that the gardens remain an engaging and beautiful place in the heart of the City.

I am writing to seek your support to establish an independent entity that will continue to effectively manage, maintain, and program the Gardens at the level it is currently operating. The model of interrelated diverse uses in the Yerba Buena community has worked wonderfully under the Redevelopment Agency and all our gardens colleagues, constituents and visitors look forward to continuing these services for the City. I am attaching a statement of principles that we believe will continue the Yerba Buena Garden (YBG) as a synergistic, integrated neighborhood.

I am on the Board of Directors for the Yerba Buena Lofts, in Yerba Buena. After attending the meetings concerning the dissolution of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, we know that we wish to retain the same level of professionalism and first-rate management we currently experience. The future of Yerba Buena Gardens is important to over 200 residents living in Yerba Buena Lofts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors at YBL, we urge you to support the concept of an independent operating authority. It’s the best way forward to secure the future for the benefits provided by Yerba Buena Gardens.

Sincerely,

Melissa Werner  
Secretary, Yerba Buena Lofts Association

Attachment: Yerba Buena Statement of Principles

CC: Mayor Ed Lee, Tiffany Bohee, Executive Director, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure  
Supervisor Jane Kim  
Yerba Buena Alliance Membership
Principles for the Future of Yerba Buena Gardens

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Dated this Date: 10/15/13

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Sean Jeffries
Title: Yerba Buena Alliance Board President

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Helen Sause
Title: Secretary

Organization: Yerba Buena Lofts Board of Directors
Signature: [Signature]
Title: Home Owner

Organization: 855 Folsom St.
Signature: [Signature]
Title: Home Owner

Organization: 855 Folsom #912
Signature: [Signature]
Title: Home Owner

Organization: 855 Folsom Street #109
Signature: [Signature]
Title:

Yerba Buena Gardens Principles Final
October 8, 2014
October 29, 2013

Christine Johnson, Chair of OCII Commission
Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Yerba Buena Gardens are unlike any other public space in the City, with our diversity of people, artistic and cultural institutions, businesses and public open spaces in a downtown environment. It’s critical that the gardens remain an engaging and beautiful place in the heart of the City.

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Melissa Werner
Secretary, Yerba Buena Lofts Association

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CC: Mayor Ed Lee, Tiffany Bohee, Executive Director, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure
Supervisor Jane Kim
Yerba Buena Alliance Membership
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YBAE Board</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle May</td>
<td>YBGF</td>
<td>Bookkeeper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher MM</td>
<td>YBC / SWM</td>
<td>Events Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcelo Aviles</td>
<td>YBGF</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raul Ponzar</td>
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<td>Production Director</td>
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<td>EA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CHS</td>
<td>Programs + Outreach Acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>YBG</td>
<td>Special Projects Manager</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November 13, 2013

Supervisor Jane Kim
City of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
City Hall, Room 244.
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Supervisor Kim,

The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District Board of Directors recently discussed the disposition of the Yerba Buena Gardens Assets as required by state law. We recognize the value of all of these assets to the Yerba Buena neighborhood and the City of San Francisco. As such, we developed some fundamental principles we think important to the future management of the assets.

I've attached a copy of our approved principles for your consideration. As an organization that is responsible for improving the quality of life in Yerba Buena for residents and visitors, the importance of these assets cannot be overstated. While we recognize the value of the assets as currently constituted, we support principles that are flexible, allow for growth and adaptation as needed, and manage to the future.

Thanks for your commitment to District Six and your attention to this matter. Please don't hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Matt Field
YBCBD Board Chair
TMG Partners

Cathy Maupin
Executive Director
YBCBD Fundamental Principles for the Future of the Yerba Buena Gardens Assets

Current Situation
State law requires that the entirety of the Yerba Buena Gardens assets be transferred from the Successor Redevelopment Agency, now the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (OCII), to a government or nonprofit entity. A long-term property management plan must be submitted to the State Department of Finance by the end of November 2013.

Whatever ownership/management structure is ultimately determined, these fundamental principles are critical to assure the assets will always fulfill their civic and community purpose — today and into the future.

Role of the YBCBD
The Yerba Buena Community Benefit District was created to advance the quality of life for residents and visitors in the Yerba Buena neighborhood and San Francisco on an ongoing basis by fostering a safer and more secure community, enhancing environmental quality and beauty, and reinforcing the viability of our economic base.

Our core values are:
- Yerba Buena Gardens is the centerpiece of the neighborhood and a significant contributor to the quality of life in our community.
- Diversity is valued in all forms and all are welcome in the Yerba Buena neighborhood.
- Arts and culture create critical connection points for our community and City.
- Stable and vibrant businesses and an engaged community are key to ensuring the success of the Yerba Buena neighborhood.

YBCBD Fundamental Principles
The YBCBD recognizes the value of all of the assets to the Yerba Buena neighborhood and the City of San Francisco. While we recognize the value of the assets as currently constituted, we support principles that are flexible, allow for growth and adaptation as needed, and manage to the future.

1. The current Yerba Buena Gardens assets represent public open spaces, cultural institutions, retail and restaurants, convention facilities, and accommodations. It is our position that there is strength in these assets as a whole and, as such, believe that they should stay together as a package. This includes all current properties, leases, and contracts identified by OCII as of July 1, 2013.

2. All revenue generated by the assets should continue to be reinvested into the ongoing operations, maintenance, and capital improvements of the assets.
3. All decisions made regarding the assets should be done via public, open, and transparent process.

4. All of the Yerba Buena Gardens assets public spaces should be operated and managed through a competitive bid process with first class property management standards.

5. The governing board or commission responsible for the Yerba Buena Gardens assets must include representatives from the Yerba Buena neighborhood. The board or commission should be subject to the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance requirements.

The principles were approved unanimously by the YBCBD Board of Directors, September 10, 2013.
### Attachment B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIGNEE</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sean Jeffries</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Alliance</td>
<td>Board of Directors Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Sause</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Alliance</td>
<td>Board of Directors Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick Smith</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Alliance</td>
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<td>Al Cosio</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Alliance</td>
<td>Board of Directors Member</td>
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<td>Chi Shin Shao</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Alliance</td>
<td>Board of Directors Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lance Burwell</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Alliance</td>
<td>Board of Directors Member</td>
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<td>Noushin Mofakham</td>
<td>South of Market Childcare</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
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<td>Mary McCue</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Alliance</td>
<td>Board of Directors Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paige Scott</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Ice Skating &amp; Bowling Center</td>
<td>General Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bob Versmon</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Skate and Bown</td>
<td>General Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justin Weiner</td>
<td>World Peace Through Technology Organization</td>
<td>Community Outreach Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Lucero</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Arts &amp; Events (Yerba Buena Gardens Festival)</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah Callahan</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Center for the Arts</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arturo Riera</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Arts &amp; Events (Yerba Buena Gardens Festival)</td>
<td>Board President</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Benson</td>
<td>St. Patrick's Church</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Werner</td>
<td>Yerba Buena Lofts</td>
<td>Owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Best</td>
<td>B Restaurant and Bar</td>
<td>Owner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Patrick</td>
<td>Patrick &amp; Co Office Supplies</td>
<td>Owner</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Park</td>
<td>Novella</td>
<td>Owner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jesse Jacobs</td>
<td>Samovar Tea</td>
<td>Owner</td>
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Principles for the Future of Yerba Buena Gardens

Current Situation:

State Law requires that the entirety of Yerba Buena Gardens — all the properties and assets — be transferred from the Successor Redevelopment Agency (now, the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure) to a government entity such as the City of San Francisco. A draft plan for this transfer must be submitted to the State Department of Finance in November 2013.

There are several potential ways to satisfy this requirement. Whatever mechanism is ultimately determined by City ordinance, the Yerba Buena community, believes that these fundamental Principles must be implemented to assure that Yerba Buena Gardens will always fulfill the Vision of its Civic and Community purposes.

The Yerba Buena Project, designed and built by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency after consulting for many decades with the community, is an award-winning public-private partnership, a crown jewel of San Francisco that serves artists, businesses, social service organizations, conventioneers, shoppers, skaters and bowlers, movie-goers, diners, residents and visitors, rich and poor, children and seniors and everyone in-between.

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3. The Principle that the Yerba Buena Gardens public spaces will continue to be operated by a first-class property management firm experienced in hosting large public and arts events.
Principles for the Future of Yerba Buena Gardens

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Dated this Date: 

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Sean Jeffries
Title: Yerba Buena Alliance Board President

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Helen Sause
Title: Board Member

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: Patrick Smith
Title: Yerba Buena Alliance Board of Directors

Organization: Yerba Buena Alliance
Signature: A. Cost
Title: Yerba Buena Board of Directors

Organization: South of Market Child Care, Inc.
Signature: 
Title: 

Organization: Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center
Signature: 
Title: General Manager

Organization: Yerba Buena Dining Center
Signature: 
Title: Manager

Organization: Yerba Buena Diner
Signature: 
Title: President
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Dated this Date: 10/24/2013

Organization: Samovar Tea Lounge

Signature: [Signature]

Title: Director of Operations
October 10, 2013

Nadia Sesay
Chair of the Oversight Board
Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Sesay,

On behalf of Yerba Buena Arts & Events aka the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, I am attaching a statement of principles that we believe will continue Yerba Buena Gardens as a synergistic, integrated neighborhood, including the provision of a public space dedicated to the performing arts.

Indeed, the public outdoor spaces of Yerba Buena Gardens have become valued and much beloved performance venues for San Francisco and the entire Bay Area. These spaces need to be available and maintained in pristine condition, and they need to be programmed with art that speaks to our diverse constituencies.

The former Redevelopment Agency, together with the Yerba Buena Alliance, formed Yerba Buena Arts & Events aka Yerba Buena Gardens Festival to provide the essential artistic programming required in the public spaces of Yerba Buena Gardens. Yerba Buena Gardens Festival is now a locally and nationally recognized nonprofit arts organization regarded for the high quality and diversity of its programs, experienced in arts management and fundraising.

During the transition of the Yerba Buena Project from the Successor Agency to the City of San Francisco, it is vital to uphold the original vision and agreements of the Yerba Buena Project. We urge you to support the concept of an independent operating authority, as the best way to secure the benefits provided by Yerba Buena Gardens into the future.

Sincerely,

Linda Lucero
Executive/Artistic Director

Arturo Riera
President, Board of Directors

Attachment: Yerba Buena Statement of Principles

CC: Mayor Ed Lee; Tiffany Bohee, Executive Director, Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure; Supervisor Jane Kim; Yerba Buena Alliance
Principles for the Future of Yerba Buena Gardens

Current Situation:

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September 10, 2013

Hon. Supervisor Jane Kim
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisor Kim,

The Yerba Buena Project has been in existence for 20 years, the result of many years of struggle and thoughtful planning, and built by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency after working and consulting with community for many decades.

The result is an amazingly successful public-private partnership, a crown jewel of San Francisco that serves artists, businesses, social service organizations, conventioneers, shoppers, skaters and bowlers, movie-goers, diners, residents and visitors, rich and poor, tiny tots and seniors and everyone in between.

Yerba Buena Gardens is the core of a vibrant, thriving neighborhood. The Yerba Buena Project has won numerous local, national and international awards as a high point of city planning. The Yerba Buena Project is flourishing because of the careful stewardship of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and its Successor Agency, which have more than two decades of practical experience understanding and overseeing the intricate relationships among the stakeholders.

During the transition of the Yerba Buena Project from the Successor Agency to the City of San Francisco, it is vital to maintain the integrity and unity of the Yerba Buena Project, within a single entity such as a trust or operating authority without a sunset or a fixed term, which will oversee the Yerba Buena Project as its sole responsibility, and which will uphold the original vision and agreements of the Yerba Buena Gardens Project.

It is the obligation of all of us to ensure a seamless transition that serves all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Linda Lucero
Executive/Artistic Director

cc: Mayor Ed Lee, Oversight Board and the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure of the Successor Agency, Yerba Buena Alliance, Yerba Buena Neighborhood Consortium.
Hi Tiffany,

As one of the owners of B Restaurant and Bar at Yerba Buena Gardens I wanted to state my support of no change to the way the gardens are currently run and maintained.

Serving guests daily from around the world I can personally vouch they are in complete awe of Yerba Buena Gardens. They are hugely complimentary and chat about YBG’s place among the greatest parks in the world. I also know for a fact that I attract and retain some great employees based on the their love of working in such beautiful surroundings. The space means just as much to the people that visit once a lifetime or once a day.

What I’d to key in on after so many years of operating in YBG is the beautiful machine that keeps visitors in awe and my employees feeling blessed. I have huge respect for the people that make it happen.

The Gardens engineer crew is relentless in their care of the area. Engineers can be seen constantly performing preventive measures to keep things running smoothly in areas all over the gardens. The engineers also respond like fireman to any important problem I have had as tenant.

The maintenance and janitorial teams are always present and quite simply some of the nicest people I get to interact with on a daily basis. One walk through the gardens shows they understand and perform their job well. Any spill, graffiti or surprise mess is always dealt with quickly and effectively.

Security does for me...exactly what it should. They truly make me feel secure. They are a call away and expertly deal with the challenges that get thrown at them on a daily basis.

In closing, I’d like to respectfully request that nothing ever changes in the way Yerba Buena Gardens is managed. With all the changes that our coming our way in the neighborhood it is more important than ever that we realize the same excellent quality of management that keeps people coming to the gardens and coming to our restaurant. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Don Harbison

Co-Owner

B Restaurant and Bar
Ms. Tiffany Bohee  
Executive Director  
Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure  
1 South Van Ness Avenue; 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Bohee,

I am writing to you on behalf of the SOMA Parents Network, which is a loose organisation of parent groups, playgroups and family support groups in the SOMA neighbourhood. One of our greatest public family resources is Yerba Buena Gardens, particularly the Children’s Quarter. The Gardens greatly increase our ability to raise well-mannered and integrated citizens in the middle of the city. We have found the Gardens to be well managed, clean, and a safe haven for our children. It is important to us that the current responsive, flexible and effective management of the Gardens continues. With the transition of the garden’s ownership and management under consideration, we believe that establishing an independent operating authority which mimics the existing structure will sustain Yerba Buena Gardens as the safe and enjoyable neighborhood gathering place we have come to expect it to be.

Effective management, operations and programming are more critical than ever with the numerous neighborhood projects coming online, including the Mexican Museum, SFMOMA and Moscone Convention Center expansion, and many others in advanced planning stages. As more families move into the area, YBG must continue to be a safe, secure and enjoyable place for all, even the littlest among us.

Public spaces that are publicly owned and managed by a non-profit 501(c)3 independent operating authority have been shown to provide cost effective services, limit the municipality’s legal liability, and minimize budgetary impact by generating revenue for operating costs and capital improvements. There is no better option for the city or the citizens than to establish an independent authority to oversee Yerba Buena Gardens.

Whichever mechanism is ultimately determined by City ordinance, the community at YBG has agreed that the following Fundamental Principles MUST be implemented to assure that the Gardens will always fulfill the Vision of their Civic and Community purposes and I believe the families who use the Gardens endorse these purposes:

• An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens — its open spaces and buildings — can never be converted to uses that are not public open space, community and arts facilities, and commercial recreation as today. This specifically must prohibit any further expansion of the Moscone Convention Center, beyond its current Expansion Project footprint, into any other part of the Gardens or its buildings.

• An irrevocable covenant that all funding from all the sources committed under current agreements for operation of the Gardens (the GMOS Account — Gardens Maintenance,
Operations, and Security) will continue to be 100% applied to that purpose and not diverted to any other use by the City.

- **An irrevocable covenant** that these GMOS revenues will continue to fund the full cost of the maintenance and upkeep of the Center for the Arts, Children's Creativity Museum, and Child Development Center buildings.

- **An irrevocable covenant** that the Gardens public spaces will always be operated under competitive management contract at first class property management standards, as it has been to date.

- **An irrevocable covenant** that all the income from temporary rentals of Gardens outdoor areas will continue to be 100% used to fund programs and events for enjoyment by the public in the Gardens.

- The establishment of a Governing Board or Commission for the Gardens responsible for all its management and activities to ensure fully transparent and accountable policy decisions - unified policy setting and management oversight - subject to Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance requirements, with full ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

- The establishment of a dedicated on-site Gardens Management team to provide executive leadership for Gardens planning and programming, direct Gardens operations, coordinate Gardens organizations, and administratively support the governing body.

Thank you for your consideration and support for the YBG Community and the families who use the garden facilities generally and the Children’s Quarter in particular. We look forward to building our families in this part of the city and thank you for protecting the safety and the integrity of the open spaces that allow us to do so.

Sincerely,

Andrea MacRae on behalf of the SOMA Parents Network

cc Mayor Edwin M. Lee mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org,
District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim Jane.Kim@sfgov.org
From: Jesse Jacobs <jesse@samovarlife.com>  
Date: September 8, 2013, 10:48:57 PM PDT  
Cc: mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org, Jane.Kim@sfgov.org  
Subject: a letter from samovar tea lounge re: ybg advocacy

Ms. Tiffany Bohee  
Executive Director  
Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure  
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Bohee,

I operate Samovar Tea Lounge at Yerba Buena Gardens. I am writing to seek your support to establish an independent operating authority that will continue to effectively manage, maintain, operate and program the Gardens.

Based on what I’ve learned about these types of entities, I believe this option will be the most effective in ensuring that YBG continues to bring millions of people here annually to the benefit of businesses like mine by providing visitors, residents and neighbors with a safe, enjoyable and captivating place to spend time. This arrangement has the added benefits of shielding the city from legal liability, and minimizing impact on the city budget through independent management of operating and capital costs. A structure that is similar to the current arrangement will sustain the successful operation and management of the Gardens in the manner that has brought twenty years of continued success and growth in the neighborhood. What we have now works.

As you may recall, Samovar Tea Lounge has been a beautiful and successful business on the upper West terrace in the gardens above the waterfall. I employ over 45 employees here and have been creating thousands of happy customers for the past many years. Just check out the yelp reviews to see what people have been saying: [http://www.yelp.com/biz/samovar-tea-lounge-san-francisco-2](http://www.yelp.com/biz/samovar-tea-lounge-san-francisco-2).

Yerba Buena Gardens are unlike any other public space in the City, with its diversity of people and places in a downtown environment. It’s critical that the gardens remain an engaging and beautiful place in the heart of the City. We encourage you to support the creation of an independent operating authority. It’s the best way to secure a promising future for Yerba Buena Gardens.

Whichever mechanism is ultimately determined by City ordinance, the community at YBG has agreed that the following Fundamental Principles MUST be implemented to assure that the Gardens will always fulfill the Vision of their Civic and Community purposes:

- An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens – its open spaces and buildings – can never be converted to uses that are not public open space, community and arts facilities, and commercial recreation as today. This specifically must prohibit any further expansion of the Moscone Convention Center, beyond its current Expansion Project footprint, into any other part of the Gardens or its buildings.
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- An irrevocable covenant that these GMOS revenues will continue to fund the full cost of the maintenance and upkeep of the Center for the Arts, Children’s Creativity Museum, and Child Development Center buildings.
- An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens public spaces will always be operated under competitive management contract at first class property management standards, as it has been to date.
- An irrevocable covenant that all the income from temporary rentals of Gardens outdoor areas will continue to be 100% used to fund programs and events for enjoyment by the public in the Gardens.
- The establishment of a Governing Board or Commission for the Gardens responsible for all its management and activities to ensure fully transparent and accountable policy decisions - unified policy setting and management oversight - subject to Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance requirements, with full ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.
- The establishment of a dedicated on-site Gardens Management team to provide executive leadership for Gardens planning and programming, direct Gardens operations, coordinate Gardens organizations, and administratively support the governing body.

Thank you for your consideration and support for the YBG Community during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Jesse Jacobs  
Founder, Samovar Tea Lounge

cc Mayor Edwin M. Lee mayoredwinlee@sfgov.org, District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim Jane.Kim@sfgov.org
Ms. Tiffany Bohse  
Executive Director  
Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure  
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Bohse,

I operate Yerba Buena Gardens Child Development Center/South of Market  
Child Care, Inc. at Yerba Buena Gardens. I am writing to seek your support  
to establish an independent operating authority that will continue to  
effectively manage, maintain, operate and program the Gardens.

Based on what I’ve learned about these types of entities, I believe this  
option will be the most effective in ensuring that YBG continues to bring  
millions of people here annually to the benefit of businesses like mine  
by providing visitors, residents and neighbors with a safe, enjoyable and  
captivating place to spend time. This arrangement has the added benefits  
of shielding the city from legal liability, and minimizing impact on the city  
budget through independent management of operating and capital costs. A  
structure that is similar to the current arrangement will sustain the  
successful operation and management of the Gardens in the manner that has  
brought twenty years of continued success and growth in the neighborhood.  
What we have now works...

Yerba Buena Gardens are unlike any other public space in the City, with its  
diversity of people and places in a downtown environment. It’s critical that  
the gardens remain an engaging and beautiful place in the heart of the City.  
We encourage you to support the creation of an independent operating  
authority, it’s the best way to secure a promising future for Yerba Buena  
Gardens.

Whichever mechanism is ultimately determined by City ordinance, the  
community at YBG has agreed that the following Fundamental Principles  
MUST be implemented to assure that the Gardens will always fulfill the  
Vision of their Civic and Community purposes:

- An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens—its open spaces and  
buildings—can never be converted to uses that are not public open space,  
community and arts facilities, and commercial recreation as today. This  
specifically must prohibit any further expansion of the  
Moscone Convention Center, beyond its current Expansion Project  
footprint, into any other part of the Gardens or its buildings.

- An irrevocable covenant that all funding from all the sources  
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diverted to any other use by the City.

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fund the full cost of the maintenance and upkeep of the Center for the
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- The establishment of a dedicated on-site Gardens Management team to provide executive leadership for Gardens planning and programming, direct Gardens operations, coordinate Gardens organizations, and administratively support the governing body.

Thank you for your consideration and support for the YBG Community during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Noushin Motakham
Executive Director

cc Mayor Edwin M. Lee mayor.edwinlee@sfgov.org,
       District 6 Supervisor Jane Kim Jane.Kim@sfgov.org
September 10, 2013

Hon. Supervisor Jane Kim
City and County of San Francisco
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Dear Supervisor Kim,

The Yerba Buena Project has been in existence for 20 years, the result of many years of struggle and thoughtful planning, and built by the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency after working and consulting with community for many decades.

The result is an amazingly successful public-private partnership, a crown jewel of San Francisco that serves artists, businesses, social service organizations, conventioneers, shoppers, skaters and bowlers, movie-goers, diners, residents and visitors, rich and poor, tiny tots and seniors and everyone in between.

Yerba Buena Gardens is the core of a vibrant, thriving neighborhood. The Yerba Buena Project has won numerous local, national and international awards as a high point of city planning. The Yerba Buena Project is flourishing because of the careful stewardship of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency and its Successor Agency, which have more than two decades of practical experience understanding and overseeing the intricate relationships among the stakeholders.

During the transition of the Yerba Buena Project from the Successor Agency to the City of San Francisco, it is vital to maintain the integrity and unity of the Yerba Buena Project, within a single entity such as a trust or operating authority without a sunset or a fixed term, which will oversee the Yerba Buena Project as its sole responsibility, and which will uphold the original vision and agreements of the Yerba Buena Gardens Project.

It is the obligation of all of us to ensure a seamless transition that serves all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Linda Lucero
Executive/Artistic Director

cc: Mayor Ed Lee, Oversight Board and the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure of the Successor Agency, Yerba Buena Alliance, Yerba Buena Neighborhood Consortium.
FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE FUTURE OF YERBA BUENA GARDENS

State Law requires that the entirety of Yerba Buena Gardens – all the properties and assets – be transferred from the Successor Redevelopment Agency (now, the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure) to a government entity such as the City of San Francisco. A draft plan for this transfer must be submitted to the State Department of Finance in November.

There are several potential ways to satisfy this requirement. But whatever mechanism is ultimately determined by City ordinance, these several Fundamental Principles MUST be implemented to assure that the Gardens will always fulfill the Vision of their Civic and Community purposes.

1. An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens – its open spaces and buildings – can never be converted to uses that are not public open space, community and arts facilities, and commercial recreation as today. This specifically must prohibit any further expansion of the Moscone Convention Center, beyond its current Expansion Project footprint, into any other part of the Gardens or its buildings.

2. An irrevocable covenant that all funding from all the sources committed under current agreements for operation of the Gardens (the GMOS Account – Gardens Maintenance, Operations, and Security) will continue to be 100% applied to that purpose and not diverted to any other use by the City.

3. An irrevocable covenant that these GMOS revenues will continue to fund the full cost of the maintenance and upkeep of the Center for the Arts, Children’s Creativity Museum, and Child Development Center buildings.

4. An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens public spaces will always be operated under competitive management contract at first class property management standards, as it has been to date.

Draft 8/23
5. An irrevocable covenant that all the income from temporary rentals of Gardens outdoor areas will continue to be 100% used to fund programs and events for enjoyment by the public in the Gardens.

6. The establishment of a Governing Board or Commission for the Gardens responsible for all its management and activities to ensure fully transparent and accountable policy decisions - unified policy setting and management oversight - subject to Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance requirements, with full ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

7. The establishment of a dedicated on-site Gardens Management team to provide executive leadership for Gardens planning, direct Gardens operations, facilitate program coordination among Gardens organizations, and administratively support the governing body.

8. The establishment of an ethical “firewall” between City Hall and the Gardens Board/Management so that all decisions on staffing and contracting are wholly based on professional standards.
August 20, 2013

Oversight Board of the City and County of San Francisco: 
Aron: Natasha A. Jones, Interim Board Secretary 
Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure: 
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor 
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Jones,

On behalf of the Yerba Buena Alliance, its Board of Directors and members dedicated to improving the Yerba Buena neighborhood, we are writing to express our support for establishing an independent operating authority or nonprofit trust that will continue to manage Yerba Buena Gardens (YBG) in the successful manner that has occurred for decades.

Without question, YBG has become the cultural heartbeat of the City and the neighborhood. With the continued rapid evolution of the neighborhood and major projects occurring, including the Mexican Museum project, SFMOMA expansion and Moscone Convention Center expansion, it is critical to sustain the positive momentum driving the evolution of the district. This success has resulted in part from the skillful management, maintenance and programming of YBG in coordination with myriad City, neighborhood, business and community partners. We believe a nonprofit or operating authority would continue to provide important benefits to the City and community.

Mixed-use public spaces that are publicly owned and managed by an independent operating authority or nonprofit trust have proven successful in providing cost-effective services, shielding the municipality from legal liability, generating revenue for operating costs and financial capital improvements; and, securing funding for capital improvements through bonds or other sources. Consistency in operations is also an important consideration. YBG is a set of synergistic organizations that, as a whole, create a vibrant neighborhood. If the signature feature of the neighborhood fails, the neighborhood will be forever altered.

We urge you to consider an independent operating authority or nonprofit trust that will sustain YBG as the cultural heartbeat of the City. With effective management, operations and programming, YBG will continue to be a safe, secure and enjoyable place for all that drives people to the area for the social and economic benefit to area businesses and the public.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Virginia Grandi, 
Program Director 
Yerba Buena Alliance

Attached: Principles:

CC: Yerba Buena Alliance Board of Directors, Mayor Ed Lee, Supervisor Jane Kim, John Rahaim, John Elderling
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There are several potential ways to satisfy this requirement. But whatever mechanism is ultimately determined by City ordinance, these several Fundamental Principles MUST be implemented to assure that the Gardens will always fulfill the Vision of their Civic and Community purposes.

- An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens – its opens spaces and buildings – can never be converted to uses that are not public open space, community and arts facilities; and commercial recreation as today. This specifically must prohibit any further expansion of the Moscone Convention Center beyond its current Expansion Project footprint into any other part of the Gardens including any of its buildings.

- An irrevocable covenant that all funding from all the sources committed under current agreements for operation of the Gardens (the GMOS Account – Gardens Maintenance, Operations, and Security) will continue to be 100% applied to that purpose and not diverted to any other use by the City.

Draft 8/19
• An irrevocable covenant that these GMOS revenues will continue to fund the full cost of the maintenance and upkeep of the Center for the Arts, Children's Creativity Museum, and Child Development Center buildings.

• An irrevocable covenant that the Gardens public spaces will always be operated under competitive management contract at first class property management standards, as it has been to date.

• An irrevocable covenant that all the income from temporary rentals of Gardens outdoor areas will continue to be 100% used to fund programs and events for enjoyment by the public in the Gardens.

• The establishment of a Governing Board or Commission for the Gardens responsible for all its management and activities to ensure fully transparent and accountable policy decisions - unified policy setting and management oversight - subject to Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance requirements, with full ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

A directly comparable example of such a City entity is the Treasure Island Development Authority. Its Commission and staff oversee management and operation of the Island (whose ownership will be transferred from the Navy to the City technically in 2014). The ongoing costs are paid from revenues from its existing properties (housing and commercial leases with additional CAM charges). The staff are City employees in the City Administrator department assigned exclusively to TIDA. Legal services are provided by the City Attorney. Building maintenance services are provided by the Department of Public Works. Capital financing is coordinated by the Mayor's Office of Economic and Workforce Development. Extensive community services and programs are provided under contract by various nonprofit agencies, along with leased facilities as needed. Various buildings are sub-leased to commercial operators for compatible activities and public use (a marina, meetings/event center, etc.).

Draft 8/19
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Draft 8/20
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